

W. J. Kennedy
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

ME-14-0014

The following transcript is an interview of Ralph Kennedy (RK) Said interview took place on October 20, 2009.

Conducting said interview:

Wayne Ivey, Special Agent Supervisor with FDLE
Bradley Lewis, Special Agent with FDLE

(WI)
(BL)

BL: October 20th, (static) uh 20 hours, me uh Wayne Ivey, (inaudible) Agent Wayne Ivey and Ralph Kennedy Commissioner. (Inaudible) Port doing an interview with Ralph Kennedy.

(Static noise)

(Inaudible background voices)

(Static noise)

(Inaudible voices)

(Static noise)

BL: No. Mr. Kennedy would you raise your right hand please, sir? Do you swear and attest to tell the whole truth, nothing but the truth so help you God?

RK: I do. (Inaudible)

BL: Yes sir.

WI: Alright Mr. Kennedy we've been sitting here talking to with you for the past little bit and uh we called you today to ask you (inaudible) and you did volunteer to come in and talk with us. We started talking to you about your conversations, your involvement with Mr. Gene Sorrow. Tell me how you met Mr. Sorrow.

RK: Mr. Sorrow uh (inaudible - static noise) asked me to meet with him about being a (inaudible) contractor (inaudible) uh looking at purchasing the Holiday Inn in uh, Cocoa Beach uh, (inaudible) bankruptcy and uh (inaudible) offering to buy em. And that I was referred to him by uh, uh a local banker (inaudible) at Sunrise Bank.

WI: Okay. What phone did he call you?

RK: He called me on my cell phone.

WI: And you had a number of conversations with Mr. Sorrows after that, is that correct or is that fair to say?

RK: Yes.

WI: During those conversations uh I believe you said one of them was in person,

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Okay and when you met with him, where'd you meet him?

RK: Uh at Durango's in Cocoa Beach.

WI: Um you met in the bar at Durango's?

RK: Yes.

WI: During that conversation that you initially (inaudible) initially that conversation (Coughing)

WI: Or your conversations with him was about construction at the Holiday Inn?

RK: Yes and he said he um (inaudible) purchase it, (inaudible) stay there and (inaudible) the conditions of the rooms were so bad that even he wouldn't stay there and uh and when he bought it he wanted to you know uh remodel it and you know put new furniture in, new carpet and that sort of thing. You know spruce the place up. He figured he was gonna have to do that anyway to keep (inaudible)

WI: Okay. Did the conversation turn to Port business?

RK: Yes it did.

WI: In the same (inaudible)

RK: Yes (inaudible)

WI: And what was the substance of that whole (inaudible)

RK: Uh that um he was looking to possibly purchase Bryan's, the old Bryan's Irish Bar

(inaudible) and that he had talked to uh Rich (inaudible) about uh buying uh investing Two Million Dollars (inaudible) but he needed to know he was concerned about doing any investing in the Port itself was (inaudible) in that area.

WI: Did he say how he knew that, that (inaudible)

RK: I don't recall him saying how he knew that.

WI: Okay. And what did he ask you?

RK: He asked me what I thought and I told him, I said well I (inaudible) there for the (inaudible), (inaudible) I, you know I said I, I, I understand you know that they wanna keep the boat there um and I said that I didn't necessarily have a problem with keeping the boat there but parking was an issue and that was I think (inaudible)

WI: In that conversation and others, did you and Mr. Sorrows um discuss how he could go about (inaudible) Sun Cruise Casino Ship (inaudible) Milliken's Restaurant?

RK: Yes I told him I'd help him come up with a plan of how to address the parking you know if he was gonna be serious about then (inaudible)

WI: Did you give him the specific directions even goes as far as to write those directions for him and tell him who he needed (inaudible)

RK: I, I believe I did but it was meant from an advisory standpoint of the process of how to you know, if you want to bring something up at the Board or you know bring it to the Board, (inaudible) more or less help (inaudible) you know a plan to present (inaudible)

WI: And if the Sun Cruise Casino Ship stayed at Milliken's it would ul, ultimately benefit Lloyd Milliken?

RK: Uh I would say yes it would have.

WI: And if it was benefitting Mr. Sorrows (inaudible - static noise)

RK: Um I would assume, Okay.

WI: I mean is that an accurate (inaudible - static noise) And again I, I and I just have to be

clear, the conversation started with you doing being contractor's (inaudible) at his (inaudible)

RK: Yeah (inaudible)

WI: Okay. Did he, did he seek out any other potential contractors uh, (inaudible) Board members?

RK: He asked me if I knew, he asked me if I knew of, of a paving contractor. Somebody that could do paving work and I said well (inaudible) paving, (inaudible) good paving contractor (inaudible) down there. He asked me, he said well, what if I wanna knock down uh the Ryan's and I said (inaudible) Port Canavare! I won't do it. And um, I said I can give you a name of somebody who, that will do a small demolition job (inaudible) and he said well could you do the work and I said no (inaudible)

WI: Now who did you tell him to contact at Sun Cruise?

RK: I don't remember. I remember talking to him uh (inaudible)

WI: And what was he directed or told that he needed to do with Sun Cruise?

RK: Well he said he had talked to Trevor and he said that, that I said that and he said well what do you think we need to do to if we were gonna get this forward he said I've been talking to Stan Payne about you know doing things at the Port and he said I told Stan that I felt that in order for any of this to be viable Sun Cruise needed to stay where it is. I said Okay. Um I said well what was Stan's reaction to that? And he said well at the end of the conversation he said I think Stan was open cause he said I'm willing to invest, I, I think the number was Twenty Million Dollars you know, out there and I'm thinking Okay.

WI: Did he say where he was gonna get that money from?

RK: No. No didn't say a word about it. I, you know,

WI: Did he mention a boat deal that he had?

RK: He said he, he said he, he said he had uh had written a book and he showed me this

book on party things, it was more or less like a small pamphlet on, on things and he said well I'm writing a book and I said Okay. And um, alright but still didn't where he was coming up with the money (inaudible).

WI: And that wouldn't be unusual cause a lot of time investors don't say where their money comes from. Did you have a conversation with Lloyd Milliken about Gene Sarrows?

RK: Uhh Lloyd called me and asked me, he said do you know this Gene Sarrows guy? I said he approached me about doing some work um, he's looking to buy um, um do some investing and hoping (inaudible) buy the Holiday Inn and uh, and I said he asked me about um doing um, basically investments and stuff and um, and he said Lloyd asked me what I know it and I said nothing other than I met with him and talked with him. I don't know if he has the money or doesn't have the money (inaudible) I don't know anything about him.

WI: And that was just last week, when that conversation happened?

RK: I think that was (inaudible) right at two weeks ago.

WI: Now historically there's been conversations about you and Milliken's friendship. We talked earlier about uh your wedding at the, (inaudible) was it the wedding or the reception (inaudible)

RK: Both.

WI: Um and in the conversation with me you discussed that you paid for that.

RK: Yeah.

WI: How did you pay for that?

RK: I paid for (inaudible) um we, we had done some, we had done some uh, (inaudible) repair work um,

WI: (Inaudible) we, who (inaudible)

RK: My company, my company.

WI: Okay, repair work for?

RK: The docks at the Café.

WI: Which is owned by?

RK: Rhoda Milliken Celano Brennar.

WI: Okay.

RK: And um, and then um, the rest I wrote a check for and she never, we have an outstanding balance of (inaudible) she didn't pay so we applied that to that.

WI: So you have done work for the Milliken's in your contracting company. The balance of your wedding was a certain amount and so your wrote a check for part of it and the other part you depleted the invoice,

RK: Right.

WI: For the,

RK: Right.

WI: From (inaudible) aspect you can say that that would be a conflict (inaudible)?

RK: (Sigh) um I guess I would have to say yes, I would call it a conflict based on (inaudible) because of friendship there and because (inaudible)

WI: Go back to Mr. Sorrows for a minute, in the telephone conversations that you had with him um and actual in person conversations as well, did there come a time where he asked you about you supporting the initiatives to keep the Sun Cruise Casino Boat there?

RK: He told me that he said I have, I think I have (inaudible) (inaudible) would you support it? And I said I, I really don't recall that part of the conversation at this time (inaudible) I really don't recall.

WI: Alright. Now you, you don't recall specifically what you said to him but you do recall him asking you that, correct?

RK: Yes.

WI: After that did you and he discuss the contracting Holiday Inn business again?

RK: Um I don't recall. Unless he called me (inaudible) meet with him at Durango's again to talk about the Holiday Inn and what he wanted to do um, that the project may be expanding to other properties and uh you know would I be interested in working some of his projects and I said yeah I had two guys that are very dependable that um don't have any family ties right now that uh you know, could go to different locations to do work in.

WI: Did you ever submit a contract to him for the Holiday Inn? How about a contract or proposal I should say?

RK: No sir.

WI: Monetarily speaking what would a job like that go?

RK: I have no idea cause I don't, I don't know what, what the steps of the renovation (inaudible). I, I really have no idea of what, what his plans were and then he told me he wanted to remodel the rooms. And, and that can vary based on the stuff (inaudible)

WI: Historically speaking did there come a time here at the Port where you felt you had conflicts in (inaudible) or any issues related to the Milliken's?

RK: Um within the last year, yeah, yeah.

WI: And why did you feel that?

RK: Uh I guess, I guess because of, of my long term friendship with him uh, that their people felt that their (inaudible) uh, (inaudible) Café that constituted a conflict and I should abstain from the vote (inaudible) and (inaudible) you know we had to vote on issues and he said well, he said it kinda changes things (inaudible) (inaudible) you weren't suppose to and I said (inaudible) and he said I think, he said I think (inaudible) you be able to abstain and, and, and not have that issue any more. I said well, I said I wanna be a team player in the Port, I don't wanna be (inaudible). (Inaudible) (inaudible) which I've done.

WI: Now just recently (inaudible) subsequent to talking to Gene Sarrows, you announced that you didn't feel like you had a conflict with the Milliken's?

RK: I, I, I felt that on the grounds from what F.D.L.E. said, I didn't have a conflict, but,

WI: Okay, (inaudible)

RK: On the (inaudible) I'm sorry,

WI: That's Okay.

RK: But I, I think that um, I told em I said I still, I still felt that I still had the, the issue of, I can't remember the language that, that the statute but something along the lines if there's, if there's a perceived issue, then um, you know you still got to go by that and that's what I talked to Harold about, our attorney. Um, (inaudible)

WI: Some time back there was uh, specific Port Board meeting where (inaudible) there a vote was taken on the Sun Cruise Casino Ship remaining docked at it's current location at Milliken's or being moved to another location here within the Port. Substance of that is that Milliken's probably loses 1.1. Million Dollars at least that's the figure that's been bounced around of which the Port would then gain because of dock fees and associated (inaudible) I know we discussed earlier the figures may or may not be exactly right but for the purpose of this statement, did you vote in that decision, (inaudible) and why not?

RK: I had uh taken ill during the meeting and uh, (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible) did you have an anxiety attack?

RK: Uh that's what the doctor's (inaudible) saying.

WI: And what do you think (inaudible) what was your anxiety over?

RK: I, I, I had, had knee surgery two weeks before and had not been sleeping real well uh I didn't like taking the pain medication cause I didn't like the way it made me feel. So I wasn't taking anything more than Advil. I was having a difficult time sleeping and I think it was that and uh, being told a hundred people and uh knowing I had voted previously um,

uh, abstained from a vote and that having been pointed out to me that I don't have any choice but to do that, knowing that I had no choice but to do that and not knowing really (inaudible) I got to feeling (inaudible)

WI: Somebody (inaudible) friendship with the Milliken's and your,

RK: And knowing what, and knowing and knowing what to do which was the staff was right, (inaudible) parking issues and um, and not you know, knowing that Sun Cruise had said, Trevor Taylor had told me we would leave the Port, (inaudible) staring out here (inaudible) people (inaudible) lot of people potentially lose their jobs.

WI: When you say the staff was right that there was a parking issue,

RK: There is a parking issue (inaudible)

WI: Where (inaudible)

RK: In the Cove.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: Or about what the votes about. Yes I mean I think it's all related.

WI: (Inaudible) the parking issue is related to where the boat is currently docked at versus where it would be docked out, is that correct?

RK: Correct.

WI: So when you say the staff was right, from a Port business perspective, the right thing to do is move the boat?

RK: Yes.

WI: With that said, why would you tell Gene Sorrows you would support it otherwise?

RK: If (sigh) if the boat leaves, there's a Million Dollars give or take (inaudible) that the Port loses, regardless,

WI: If the boat leaves the Port?

RK: And, and, if the (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: If the boat leaves the Port and along with it, the jobs. Okay. Um, if there isn't you know and it's we've lost Sterling um, uh another boat was suppose to come last year, we had to do a budget adjustment for that uh mid-year of about Four Million Dollars. Um, in fact it was brought up at our budget this year until Stan shows us a contract with Sterling we shouldn't put it, we shouldn't include the rentals in the budget. Um, but if the boat stays, jobs get saved, Port keeps the Million Dollars. (Inaudible) (Inaudible) I thought potentially there was only (inaudible)

WI: Did you tell Gene Sorrows to contact (inaudible)

RK: I don't recall.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: I may have.

WI: And what would you have told him (inaudible)?

RK: If, if you're going to uh, change the vote then you need to, you know, you need to talk to the Commissioners. If you know tell them, tell them what you're talking about doing.

WI: Did Rick (inaudible) vote for, the count was 3 to 1 in your absence?

RK: I don't, I don't think he did. I don't remember. I don't think he did.

WI: He was the (inaudible) vote (inaudible)

RK: He was the (inaudible) vote.

WI: Okay. Did you tell,

RK: I don't know why Ray voted against, I was not here.

WI: Did you tell Gene Sorrows to contact Tom (inaudible)

RK: I may have.

WI: And what was the purpose of that?

RK: Uh same thing. Talk to the Commission about you know, what your plans are. You know

if you've got real solid plans you know talk to the Commission, tell em what your plan is.

WI: Did you tell him to contact Tom (inaudible) regarding (inaudible)

RK: Umm I believe I did. I think he even called Bob (inaudible) you know (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible) to talk to Tom about?

RK: I don't recall.

WI: In other words,

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other) I was keepin it,

WI: Did you tell him that he could talk to Tom about the (inaudible) and transition it to the Sun Cruise (inaudible)

RK: I don't recall that being part of the conversation at all. Literally he asked me if I knew of a paving contractor that could do some paving work potentially at the Holiday Inn and knock down (inaudible) and I said well you can talk to Tom (inaudible) he's a good paving company you know about doing the work and, and then um, but I told him, I said Tom is not going to do, do work out here, he use to turn me down all the time.

WI: Did you tell him to contact any of the other Port Commissioners?

RK: I told him I said I didn't, I didn't think you know, I said and he said he could contact uh Joe Matheny if he wanted. I didn't know if Joe would talk to him. Um Joe is historically is pretty funny about talking to people.

WI: Did you tell him Joe wouldn't change his vote?

RK: I told him I didn't think Joe might change his vote. I said I think he usually votes a lot with (inaudible)

WI: Okay what about the others?

RK: Matt?

WI: Matt.

RK: I told him I said Matt, you just don't know what Matt is gonna do. I said Matt evidently told

the Milliken's that he had not made up his mind uh on what he was gonna do on the Sun Cruise vote and I told Rhoda I said well he sat here in a meeting two months before Rhoda and said he didn't support (inaudible) Okay and I said so, I said I didn't think he would, he was gonna change his mind from that. I told em, I said you really don't know which way Matt's gonna go.

WI: Well speaking of Rhoda, you and she were more, historically have been good friends, correct?

RK: Yes.

WI: Now there's a rift between you & Rhoda?

RK: Yes.

WI: What's that?

RK: She made a rather what I consider ugly statement that when I took ill at the Commission Meeting that uh it was all staged, it was all a fake.

WI: And why would she say that?

RK: Uh I don't know. I told her because I didn't even want to be at the meeting that day I wasn't feeling you know, I tried to explain to her I think I said Stan has indicated to me that he just moved on past this thing that he felt that he had (inaudible) you know uh, he thinks, he thinks this is how it's gonna go and I told her, I said I just, I don't think there's anything I can really do to change anybody's opinion (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible) Commission.

WI: Rhoda and Lloyd were pressuring you to vote?

RK: They wanted me, see it wasn't as much as pressuring me to vote, she wanted me to try to speak and argue to try and keep the boat there. To change everybody's mind. And I told her I didn't think that was possible and then (inaudible)

BL: She, you're saying that, that, how did she, (inaudible) she wanted you to change their minds?

RK: She just felt that I needed to continue you know she said you need to say something. You need to get up there and fight. You need to get up there and say something. You need to get up there and say something. I said what do you want me to say? If their minds are made up, their minds are made up.

BL: When did she tell you this ?

RK: This is the, the morning of uh, the day of that meeting. And I said no.

BL: Where were you guys having this, (inaudible)

RK: Uh on the the phone.

(Inaudible)

BL: Well a few minutes ago, you told me that you recently spoke to Gene Sorrow's wife,

RK: Yes.

BL: When was that?

RK: Uh I called yesterday and I called today.

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: Uh she just said that he was not available and I said Okay well you just tell him Ralph Kennedy called and um I called again this morning and I said hey you now, is Gene available and she said no. I said (inaudible) she said uh he's not here he's out of town or something like that and I said oh, I said oh, Okay is he out of town? And she said yes and I said oh, Okay well, when he gets a chance just have him call.

BL: And what was the purpose of calling him?

RK: I was just calling to see cause he had mentioned in one of our conversation about um his deal with the uh, Holiday Inn was uh, was scheduled for sometime in early November and I was just contacting him to say you know is there a time frame for what you're

looking at you know when you close going forward you know what, that's what I was gonna talk about.

WI: Were you gonna talk to him about today's meeting?

RK: No.

WI: Did there come a time where you called Donna, what's Donna's last name?

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Green, (inaudible) and inquire about the Port potentially receiving a renter for Sun Cruise requesting to be on the agenda?

RK: Yes.

WI: And what made you, what prompted you to make that call?

RK: Um Gene asked me uh, he said did you receive a letter from Sun Cruise? I said I haven't received one but I said a lot of times my mail goes to the, to the Port office so I don't, I don't necessarily get it right away. Sometimes they'll fax it. Sometimes they stick it in an envelope and I get it at the end of the week.

WI: And when you called Donna, you asked her if the Port had received a letter?

RK: Um-huh.

WI: And then what'd you say?

RK: I said oh well I said a little birdie told me that one might be coming, so,

WI: Why not tell Donna who,

RK: That, (inaudible)

WI: Who that person was?

RK: I, I don't know. I don't have a good answer for one. To be truthful I wasn't I guess trying to be a lil' coy about it with Donna.

WI: Did you want anybody to know about your directions or your assistance with Gene Sorrows?

RK: I,

WI: Was it something that you would,

RK: No I, no it was, no because he had told me he had been talking to Stan.

WI: When you and Gene Sorrows were speaking and he asked you specifically about would you support the uh, the Sun Cruise Casino staying there, what'd you tell him? Verbatim.

RK: I, I don't, I don't really recall. I, I, I may have said I could support it, but I really don't at this time I'm confused on a lot of things right now. I don't recall but I may have, I may have said that.

WI: Did you tell him Lloyd Milliken that you had spoken to Gene that you would support it?

RK: I don't recall.

WI: I need you to think (inaudible). Remember I told you I already know the answers to a lot of these questions I'm asking.

RK: (Inaudible) I don't recall. I really don't.

BL: Do you think maybe you can clarify how many, how many times that the subject came up and how many times you discussed it? (Inaudible) how many times that (inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible) I, I, I, again I don't, I don't, I'm really really confused at this point. I really don't recall. I'm not trying to uh,

BL: Oh let me, let me just break it down easy (inaudible). I think it would be fair to say that at some point Lloyd reached out to you and said Ralph, as a friend I need your support on this issue, correct?

RK: Yes, but I don't think I told him I could support it because I, I don't really, (pause)

WI: Ralph, have you talked to any other Commissioners privately about this?

RK: No sir.

WI: When you told Gene Sorrows to call (inaudible) (inaudible) did you tell him to use (inaudible) (inaudible)?

RK: I don't think, I don't recall, I don't believe I did. I don't think so. I don't, I really honestly as surprising as it sounds, (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible) you ever (inaudible)

RK: Yes.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: And I, and I solicited bids from Domma on, on my work.

WI: Okay. Do the Milliken's, do you or the Milliken's ever take monetary,

RK: No.

WI: Have you ever?

RK: No. I mean have I ever borrowed money from them or anything like that?

WI: Yes.

RK: No.

WI: Exactly.

RK: No.

WI: Is there anything that you can think of that we haven't discussed here today that you know is going to become an issue?

RK: No.

WI: You had conversations with Gene Sorrows on Thursday afternoon, which you now know he was in our custody during that conversation. Do you remember that conversation?

RK: Not all of it, no.

WI: Do you remember talking about (inaudible)

RK: I remember telling him that I could not talk to the Commissioners about this or anything that would come up for a vote.

WI: Did he ask you to?

RK: I, I it seemed to me he did because he said can you talk to some, you know can you talk

to them and I said no, I can't. (Inaudible) talk about this stuff.

WI: Did you and Rhoda and Gene Sorrows ever meet together?

RK: No.

WI: Did Rhoda call you after she met Gene Sorrows?

RK: No.

WI: Do you remember when the two of them met?

RK: Um Lloyd called me and said that he asked me if I knew, what I knew about this Gene Sorrow's guy. I said he called me and asked me about you know that he was looking to the buy the Holiday Inn out of bankruptcy and um he was recommended to me and uh, or recommended, I was recommended to him and you know he was looking to do some other investments and I said I, I, I told Lloyd I said I don't know if he has the where with all or not. He said well he's meeting with Rhoda and he's talking with Rhoda now and I said Okay, well you know I don't know if he has the where with all or not. I said he talks a good game but I don't know if he has it or not.

WI: How does Lloyd Milliken know that you knew Gene Sorrows?

RK: Um well Lloyd asked me,

WI: (inaudible)

RK: Lloyd asked me if I ever met or talked to Gene, Gene Sorrows and I said yes.

WI: How would he know to ask you that question?

RK: I don't know.

WI: If I walked up to Lloyd Milliken today would he ask me I knew Gene Sorrows?

RK: I don't know. I don't know. I, I assume that if, if Gene was meeting with, with Lloyd and Rhoda that he might of said well I talked to Ralph Kennedy. That's (inaudible)

WI: Did you tell Lloyd Milliken that if the Sun Cruise Casino Ship came on the agenda again, that you would vote this time? And Ralph I already know the answer.

RK: I really don't remember Wayne, I really don't.

WI: I didn't just happen by here today, think about this. I already know the answer.

RK: I really don't know. I really don't remember what I told Lloyd.

WI: Would it be proper for you to discuss how you would vote with Lloyd Milliken?

(Pause)

WI: I also know the answer to the question.

RK: No.

WI: Ralph, when you were talking to Lloyd did you and he discuss that when Gene Sorrows pushed the item on the agenda,

RK: I don't know. We talked about a lot of different issues (inaudible)

WI: Did you and Lloyd discuss having Gene Sorrows push the item onto the agenda again?

RK: I may have, I don't recall. I really don't. I'm not (inaudible)

WI: I'm asking to you.

RK: We talked a lot about a lot of different things. I (inaudible)

WI: Was one of those things Gene Sorrows pushing the Sun Cruise on to the agenda?

RK: I, I don't remember, possibly. I don't remember. I really don't. I really don't.

WI: Who would've done the swing vote?

RK: I don't know what the swing vote would be in a case if somebody brought in, if I were plan to go forward with something, I really don't. I really don't know what, what if, if somebody came in with a good plan of things, I would want to develop this part of the Port or I want to do a certain thing, what would happen, Okay. I don't know if everybody would say gee I like that plan and that looks good, Okay we can, we can support this and other information and that sort of thing. I mean it's possible and I don't know if I would've been swing vote or not. I know I pro, I probably would've abstained. I think this, just the fact that this whole things with, with my friendship with the Milliken's (inaudible) I think I

would've had to abstain.

(Coughing)

WI: At the very beginning of our conversation you told us that you had not spoken to Gene or to Lloyd Milliken in over two months.

RK: Except for a week ago (inaudible)

WI: I mean that you told me that that was only time. That wasn't exactly true was it?

RK: I, I talked to him the other day, that day. He called me, he called and asked me, he said,

WI: When did you and he discuss Gene Sorrows?

RK: Gene Sorrows called me and he said can you get Lloyd to contact me or whatever and I said, I'll call him you know. I didn't know what it was about. I said Okay. So I called Lloyd and I said Gene Sorrows wants you to call him and he said what about, he's got my phone number. I said I have no idea. I don't know what it's about.

WI: How many times when I, when I look at your cell phone records and again, I hate to keep saying this, but I know the answer. How many times when I look at your cell phone records,

BL: (Inaudible) Carolina connection,

WI: (Inaudible)

BL: You guys are in a really one in a million bad spot about this whole thing from the stand point of you've got Gene over here who's a gentlemen who make it a habit of recording stuff with illegally recording stuff and then you've got your friend Mr. Milliken up in the Carolinas who allegedly is doing some things he shouldn't be doing. Well you've got the authorities in North Carolina that have been recording uh conversations with him and have been involved in, in trying to go and find out what he's all about and you've got your buddy down here, your acquaintance who Mr. Milliken has directed you to work or has directed him towards you. So you've got a lot of different (inaudible) between (inaudible)

and the bottom line is, when you sit here and and, and say I don't recall, I don't remember, I'm not sure,

RK: I, I, (inaudible)

BL: No, please hear me out. I understand that there is a lot of that, that is probably true because there's a lot of things that have transpired (inaudible). You've got a legitimate business (inaudible), you're on the Port, you're married, I mean we understand that. That's not an issue. But when there are certain fundamental things about relationships with Mr. Milliken and things that have transpired and you say I don't recall, I don't remember and then sordidly things that you've gone over and, and, and a multitude of times, we know that that is not accurate. So the thing that I'm going to suggest to you is, is that, that you, you dig a little deeper and think about the (inaudible) (inaudible)

WI: How many times when I look at your telephone records will I see, I see a bunch of calls between Gene Sorrows, you and Lloyd Milliken, where one calls you and you called the other?

(Pause)

WI: Tell me I'm wrong Ralph. Was this designed to keep the Sun Cruise Casino Ship at Milliken's restaurant?

(Pause)

WI: I'm asking you for the absolute truth.

RK: I believe it was.

WI: And were you part of that design?

RK: I don't know, I, I, I, I think what you're telling me, evidently I am.

WI: Were you part of that design by your own doing? In other words and this is not the word, but I'm gonna use it. Was there a conspiracy between you and Lloyd Milliken and Gene Sorrows to get that Sun Cruise Casino Ship back on the agenda and keep it at

Milliken's?

RK: Not the way your phrased it. I, (inaudible)

WI: And I said conspiracy in other words but,

RK: They,

WI: Three people work together to do something, or maybe I should classify it as a partnership, maybe that's easier somehow.

BL: How did, how did Lloyd orchestrate what he wanted to have done?

RK: For?

BL: For keeping the Sun Cruise where it,

RK: He didn't.

WI: Did the three of you work in concert, in a partnership to get that ship back on the agenda so that it could be voted on?

(Pause)

WI: I need you to answer that Ralph.

RK: Did the three of us work in concert? Wayne if I knew how to answer that,

WI: Truthfully, that's all I'm asking you to do is to be truthful.

RK: (Sigh) (inaudible)

WI: And what was your benefit from it?

RK: Nothing.

WI: Why do it? Why sacrifice everything?

RK: I'm trying to think, (inaudible) if a guy that has, has a legitimate business plan and, and had an idea to come here and do this and do the investing (inaudible) I didn't, I thought it was a workable solution. I thought it was, I thought it was significant. The Port would keep the ship, the jobs would be safe here and there'd be an investment in the Port. I was not gonna vote to support, I could not vote from the lease extension, I could or, or,

or, or the changes, I couldn't do it. (Inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible) if you felt that that ship being there was in the best interest of the Port, then why go to Milliken? Did you ever discuss it with the Port CEO? That this plan if come to fruition could save jobs, save the Port money, save the restaurant that's in the Port?

RK: I talked to Stan about this (inaudible) (inaudible)

WI: Did you ever talk to him about Gene Sorrow's plan? And in fact did you not tell Gene Sorrows to call Stan and not mention your name?

RK: I don't recall telling him not to mention my name. I told him about if he had a plan he needed to take it to Stan. I don't remember telling him not to mention my name.

WI: Okay.

RK: I, I, I told him that

(Throat clearing)

RK: I said, you, staffs gonna have to review it, that staff is gonna have to,

WI: (Inaudible) is that permissible within the rules of the Port?

RK: It is permissible within the rules of the Port. I didn't go to Stan because I felt Stan was already talking to him about this.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: I didn't want to feel like I was pushing something,

WI: (Inaudible - talking over each other) if you felt that Stan was already talking to Gene then why did you need to tell Gene to call Stan?

RK: Because in the discussions me & Gene were having, he said well what do you think it would take to do this and I said,

WI: You mean you and Gene were having?

RK: Right. I said I think you need to show them a solid plan and you're going to have to discuss it with Stan in order for this to happen.

WI: But you just said you didn't talk to Stan.

RK: I did not talk to Stan about my meeting with Gene Sorrows, no.

WI: Because you thought he and Gene were talking.

RK: Yes.

WI: Okay.

RK: And I did not want to call Stan to make it look like I'm putting pressure on Stan, on, on this issue. I did not want to do that. I did not want to make (inaudible)

WI: Fair enough. Why not?

RK: Because I knew I was gonna have a problem again on, on, on voting and so I did not want to, otherwise (inaudible) try to stay away and not have to vote on this issue. I thought it was a good enough plan and if it saved the jobs, help everybody down there at the Port (inaudible) I thought, I really thought and if, we talk about (inaudible) partnerships all the time but this was one that I really thought that this was it. But I didn't get involved with it cause I knew I probably couldn't vote for it if it was gonna benefit the Millikens.

WI: Okay. When did you and Lloyd first discuss getting the boat back on the agenda?

RK: I don't remember if it was my last phone conversation with him last week or the week before.

WI: Was it before you met Gene Sorrows? It's Okay.

RK: I did not talk to Lloyd after the vote to move the boat.

WI: Did Lloyd Milliken ask you to call Gene Sorrows? Was he who first told to be in touch with Gene Sorrows?

RK: No.

WI: (Inaudible) Bank President, what's his name?

RK: Larry Rosel.

WI: If I go to him will he confirm that he put you in touch with him?

RK: I can't say that. I, I, I called him up, I said, I called him after I met with Gene. I called Larry up and I said what do you know about this Gene Sorrows' guy and he said well he came here uh asking about the bank and he was looking to make an investment in the bank you know buy stock and I told him we would make it, Larry para, paraphrasing, Larry said he told him that he would you know they might make something available but it wasn't going to be an open-ended thing, if he was gonna do something, he needed to it relatively quick and show them that he had the where with all and stuff. And I said look do you think, he said I heard, what do you think and he said Ralph I have no idea.

WI: Did he tell you he told him to call you?

RK: Um I don't remember exact, I said well, I think I might've said well thanks for the referral you know. I told him thanks. I said did he mention to you about the Holiday Inn and I said, he said yeah. And he said, I said is he looking to borrow from you guys? And he said no. He said no.

WI: Again another question I already know the answer to, did you and Gene Sorrows and Lloyd Milliken ever meet together?

RK: No.

WI: Is there ever a time that you were suppose to?

RK: I don't. I don't recall the conversation asking me to meet with them.

WI: Now when I say Lloyd, I mean also Rhoda.

RK: Umm I don't remember if Gene, I remember telling Gene that Rhoda and I were not really getting along right now and I really, really wasn't interested in going to, you know and staying with them.

WI: Did Lloyd Milliken tell you that he had somebody that he felt could help get the Sun Cruise Ship back on the agenda? That somebody being Gene Sorrows?

RK: I don't recall that being said.

WI: Who brought up Gene Sorrows first, you or Lloyd?

RK: Uh Lloyd when he called me.

WI: And he said he, did you know this guy?

RK: Yeah he said you know who, he said did you talk to Gene Sorrows?

WI: I'm gonna ask you again about the partnership. Was Lloyd Milliken orchestrating you and Gene Sorrows about getting the Sun Cruise Casino Ship back on the agenda?

RK: I don't think so. Uh,

WI: Was Gene Sorrows orchestrating you and Lloyd?

RK: Gene Sorrows told me he was trying to buy that lease hold from Lloyd.

WI: But the three of you were working together, correct?

RK: I, uh,

WI: Yes or no? I mean that's a yes or no answer.

RK: To, to, if the Board would revisit it?

WI: Um-hum.

RK: From what I understood, the Board was open to revisiting the issue. All that,

WI: Who did you understand that from?

RK: From, from the (inaudible) and from uh,

WI: (Inaudible) Are they open to voting to, relistening to things they've already voted on?

RK: Yes. They, they, they, we have in the past. We looked at issues.

WI: Who told you the Board was receptive to that issue again?

RK: I talked to Stan after the vote, after you know like (inaudible) afternoon the next day or something I think I called in um to talk to him about a couple of things that I wanted to ask the consultant um, one of which was why all the parking, the service parking, not parking lots um, and why he's bringing up putting green space along the waterfront

where all that waterfront property's under lease. It was gonna cost you know, money to buy that back and make a park out of it when we already had two parks which (inaudible) and then I told him, I said um a senior citizen friend of mine brought up a good point that she as a single uh widowed senior citizen would not feel safe in walking you know uh from uh a big parking lot like that to some of the restaurants. And I said, I said well did uh, was safety brought up and Stan said no but that's a very good point. I said well the guys from Massachusetts and they don't always, you know see everything you know that we see (inaudible) senior citizens we get in the winter time and that kinda thing. And I said so, I said I, I asked Stan, I said that if if somebody came up with a viable plan that's just you know, you know, I mean I said is this still open? And Stan said, Stan said he said you know I can't say you know never that the Board wouldn't wouldn't possibly consider it. He said, he said we told Sun Cruise at the meeting that this was not necessarily, this was just a step you know, giving them our attention. So I kinda took it from there that, that it was still open for discussions that potentially if (inaudible) Sun Cruise leaves and the jobs go and the Port loses the revenue.

WI: So essentially in your conversation with Stan that day, he told you if somebody had a good plan, correct me if I'm wrong (inaudible) cause I wanna really understand this. Stan told you if somebody had a good plan, that it could come back up on the agenda?

RK: He implied that yes.

WI: Did you convey that to Lloyd Milliken?

RK: I don't remember if I, if I said Stan said this.

WI: Did you convey to Lloyd Milliken that if somebody had good plans it could come back up on the agenda?

RK: I don't,

WI: Ralph, do you see where this is at? Stan Payne according to your own words, tells you

(Coughing)

WI: That if somebody has a good plan can come back up on the agenda and then you and Lloyd Milliken and Gene Sorrows orchestrate a plan, which is inclusive of you writing on a piece of paper here's what you need to do (tapping sounds),

RK: To get it back on the agenda,

WI: To get it back on the agenda. Did that seem a little conspiratorial to you?

RK: I understand where you're going,

WI: Does that (inaudible)

RK: Was not my intention.

WI: What was your intention?

RK: Again my intention was to try and save the jobs. Keep the boat here for as long as it would be here. I don't see it being a long term thing.

BL: Well obviously you being a Port Commissioner, I'm sorry but (inaudible) moving boat would still retain the jobs and retain the ship in here.

RK: But Sun Cruise, Sun Cruise had said

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: They, they will leave and

WI: And if that's the case,

RK: I just,

WI: Isn't the forum for presenting that information in this room adjacent to us?

RK: Yeah.

WI: You have the attention of everyone.

RK: Yes, but,

WI: Did you ever bring out of the floor at any point, I understand you had an anxiety attack that day which was the result of you being so tom over having to vote on this is a big part

of it. But did you ever bring out in any forum that Sun Cruise was gonna pull out if, if they left Millikens?

RK: Did I ever what?

WI: Did you ever bring that out in a forum? In, in, (inaudible)

RK: I, I, I, I, I, I may have in a previous meeting. That Sun Cruise was going cause this wasn't the first, the Consultant came in and made a presentation about this.

WI: The Consultants work for who?

RK: Uh well literally for Stan (inaudible)

WI: But this was (inaudible), the Consultants are looking for the best interest of the Port,

RK: The Consultants, they consult, but the same Consultants, the same Consultants five years ago came back and said that any (inaudible)

WI: Well I'm not, I'm not saying Consultants are always right (inaudible)

RK: And, and,

WI: I'll argue with you that sometimes they're not, so.

RK: And in this case, in this case oh Okay, so, and I, and I supported, and I supported the concept (inaudible) presented at that time.

WI: I, I mean uh, I think we've talked about a lot here. Brad you got anything (inaudible)?

BL: I guess uh, I guess the things that I'm, that I'm concerned about is I'm sure as Wayne here would, you know there's, you give different slants on, on all he's asked ya, how'd you come across Gene, did Gene call you or did you call Gene?

RK: Gene called me.

BL: Okay. Well I can tell you that records indicated, cell phone records indicate it differently. Would that be accurate or inaccurate?

RK: He called.

BL: (Inaudible) initially made the first call Ralph and it was Gene Sorrows, five minutes out of

leaving Lloyd Milliken's restaurant and having been out on the dock with Rhoda and then having looked at the hotel when you called.

RK: It was the same day. I had, I had no clue. Whe, when, when I got the phone call.

BL: Let me ask you this, would it be inaccurate to sit there and say that I can show you phone records that between Gene Sorrows and I have sworn testimony from Gene Sorrows saying that there was a phone call between him and Ms. Milliken or Rhoda. A meeting between the two of them. A subsequent phone call to you and a subsequent phone call to Gene. Would that be accurate or inaccurate?

RK: I, I don't know.

BL: Okay. Would that be, would that be viable to say that between the phone conversations between you and Gene that the first phone conversation that was ever occurred between the two of you was directed from your phone to his phone, not vice-versa like you're trying to say?

RK: I was working, I worked

BL: It's a yes or no?

RK: I came,

BL: I don't mean to be rude, but you, you're clearing needs to sharpen up a bit because the things you're saying,

RK: I, I'm trying, I'm trying. I was working on my consulting job for an outside contractor, Okay. I was sitting at my desk, I don't remember, I think my secretary called and said that there was a phone call from, I remember I wrote the phone number down. I know I was there cause I wanna say it was a Thursday,

WI: Who did the call come from?

RK: Tuesday or Thursday.

WI: Who did the call come from?

RK: I wrote the phone number down on a piece of paper and it was either a message on my cell phone or it was a message from my secretary that somebody called, Okay.

WI: (Inaudible) from Gene (inaudible)

RK: And then I called (inaudible) that Gene, Gene Sorrows called. Gene Sorrows called and I, I'm trying to remember if it was a message on my cell phone or (inaudible)

WI: If I, if I told you that I have a sworn deposition from Gene Sorrows saying that he visited with Rhoda, and correct me if I'm wrong on any part of this, that he, he visited with Rhoda, she walked him out on the dock, then they walked over and looked at the footers at the hotel. They discussed for keeping the potential for keeping Sun Cruise Ships there and his potential for investment and as he, and after he left, he gets a call from a man he's never talked to before in his life Ralph Kennedy, would he be lying to me? . Because everything else thing he has told me, I have confirmed through the data that Brad just informed you the thing you've been talking about all day, I've confirmed every bit of it but that one piece he's lying to me about?

RK: I, I did not talk to Rhoda Salano since the morning of (inaudible) since the morning of the Port Commission Meeting. Okay. I did, I did not talk to her,

WI: Then how did you know to call Gene Sorrows?

RK: There was a message, it was either on my cell phone like I said, or a it came from my secretary. And I remember I was sitting at my desk, it was either a Tuesday or a Thursday, I was sitting at my desk uh at my other job, and, and it was call this guy he wants to talk to you about remodel of a hotel.

WI: And who was that message from?

RK: It was, I, I think it was my secretary.

BL: It's your sworn testimony to us that Gene Sorrows initiated contact with you first, not him, or not you to him first?

RK: Yes.

BL: Okay. And it's your sworn testimony that you were referred to Gene Sorrows from the bank president or not from the bank president or maybe could've (inaudible)

RK: He told me,

BL: I'm confused about,

RK: He told me that um I was referred to him from Larry Rosel (inaudible)

WI: Gene Sorrows told you that?

RK: Yes.

WI: Okay. Let me go back and this is my last point here and I know this (inaudible) let me begin (inaudible) and I apologize for that (inaudible). Chronologically speaking, you have an anxiety attack over the Sun Cruise Casino vote, there was some medical issues associated with it. As you were telling us earlier, you believe large and in part that your anxiety was over the fact that were torn between voting because of your friendship with Milliken and what's right for the Port's (inaudible), is that a correct statement?

RK: Yes.

WI: Okay. You had the anxiety attack the next day or within just a short period of time, you had a conversation with Stan Payne and during that conversation, Stan Payne shares with you that if somebody had a viable plan, then they would reconsider putting it on the agenda?

RK: Yes.

WI: Okay. You then have a conversation with Lloyd Milliken about if there was a viable plan? Did you and Lloyd discuss that? Did you and Lloyd discuss that if there was an actual plan,

RK: Not, not, not,

WI: It would come back on the agenda?

RK: If I, if I talked to Lloyd about it, it was after all the Gene Sorrows' stuff. I did not have any contact with uh, um, any of the Milliken's uh since that happened, except that I needed a copy of a receipt on some material um, (inaudible) fence material that I got from him and I said I need a paid receipt. (Inaudible) copy of a paid receipt.

WI: Fence material for what?

RK: Uh for a small project I did for somebody. They had some, they had some material in the right color and I got it from that, that was left over from something they did.

WI: Did you buy it from the Milliken's?

RK: Yes and I said, I said

WI: Do you see that as a conflict? Doing business with the Milliken's?

RK: To buy some leftover fence material?

WI: I'm asking you, do you see it as a conflict? When you spoke to the Ethics Attorney, would he assume that as a conflict?

RK: I don't know.

BL: Your words earlier were real or perceived. Do you think it would be a real or perceived conflict?

WI: How much, how much money are we talking about here?

RK: Like Five Hundred Dollars in fence material.

WI: Alright.

RK: It was just for a small (inaudible)

WI: Okay.

RK: It was, it was, it was tan. I was gonna buy white, they had some tan. I said hey, what are you doing with that stuff? And he said something, we're probably, probably not gonna use it now. He said we're not, whatever it was they were using it for they took it down.

WI: How much was it, I mean material how much was it?

RK: Oh like ten pieces of it. It's like, it's like 6X6.

WI: Was it like privacy fence?

RK: Like PVC privacy fence.

WI: (Clears throat)

RK: I mean at first we were gonna put up white for dumpster enclosure, the building is tan, just tan.

WI: It's like we needed a receipt for that so you spoke to Lloyd?

RK: I talked to, I talked to, I talked to (inaudible). And um, Lloyd picked Jason's phone and said "Hey how you doing?" I said fine. He said we ever gonna see you again? I said Lloyd, I said, you know, you know, with it's it's, (inaudible) I was trying to be polite about it and you know not, say no Lloyd I have no intention of coming around you and no Lloyd, I have no intention to coming to Milliken (inaudible) over you know, trying not to get into the whole thing of, and that was after, you know, the episode, the episode here. Where I got sick, I just..needed, I, I, I, I do apologize, well...

WI: Well, I'm gonna ask you this last question. When I look at your telephone records, how many times will I see a sequence of calls, between you, Gene Sorrows, and Lloyd Milliken?

RK: (Sighs) (Inaudible) Millikens in general?

WI: Yeh

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Jason (Inaudible)

RK: Twice that I could recall.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: Um, Gene Sorrows called and ah he had to justify (Inaudible) business again and asked me if I thought Lloyd would be interested in selling the water plant (Inaudible). Ok, and I

said I (Inaudible) And a little while later, it was the phone call from Lloyd and he said you know, what do you know about, do you know Gene? Oh said you ever talk to him and I said Yes, and you know I told, that conversation previously. And then Gene called me last week I think and asked if I will call Lloyd, you know, and see if he would meet with them and I said O, Ok I'll call them for you, you know, so I called Lloyd and (Inaudible) the account Monday. And I planned to be in town Monday, I don't know if you care or not, and he said, You want to get together, meet, get together and go somewhere and have a beer or something? And I said, Lloyd, I said I'm really, really very busy, you know, got a lot going on, I said,

WI: You told that to Gene or Lloyd?

RK: I told that to Lloyd, and I said really, you know,

WI: So Gene just recently, called you and asked you would you call Lloyd?

RK: Uh huh. And Lloyd from that conversation, Lloyd says...(Interrupted by WI)

WI: Can I ask you a question Ralph?

RK: Yeh.

WI: Didn't you tell me earlier, that Lloyd called you and asked you what you knew about Gene Sorrows because he'd been talking to him, he was needing (Inaudible). Why would Gene Sorrows need you to make that connection of that?

RK: I don't know. I don't know. And Lloyd and Lloyd said that, he said well Gene's got my phone number, he said why didn't he call me back, I said I don't know.

WI: How many times did you, Gene, or you and Lloyd, discuss the fact that if you did this, this, this, and this in a multi-step process, you could get the Sun Cruz Casino shit back on the agenda?

RK: I don't recall.

WI: Did you discuss it at least once?

RK: Yes I discussed it at least once.

WI: With Gene?

RK: Yes.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: Yes

WI: Did you discuss that same plan with Lloyd?

RK: I don't recall my conversation with Lloyd on that.

WI: On that?

RK: I mean, I mean, I don't, Lloyd, Lloyd is in discussion about between the hotel, and this, and that, and I told him, I said Lloyd, I said, ...

WI: Did you and Gene discuss how to get the lease back from the Millikens on the hotel?

RK: I told him I felt that if, if, again based on what Joe McKeen said at the meeting, um because, I think it was last meeting, um, Stan, prior to the last meeting, Stan faxed a letter to the Millikens telling them that they were, he was rejecting their latest hotel offer. Uh, or, ah, (inaudible). And Ray Sharky brought it up, ah, at the meeting, and Joe made the statement that, I mean, you know, we, we had to see something and I said well, I said, he said you know finance, financing plan, something and I said well how do you get financing, you don't have a lease and he said (inaudible) well yeah maybe right, you know, it's a viable business plan and something, you're probably right, you could probably get a commitment in, in, you're probably right.

WI: What kind of business is Ray Sharky in?

RK: Ah, Ray is retired.

WI: Does he do anything on the side?

RK: Not that I'm aware of.

WI: Did Ray Sharky and you ever talk about Sun Cruz Casino shut coming back on the

agenda?

RK: No sir.

WI: Did you direct Gene Sorrows to call Ray Sharky?

RK: I suggested to Gene that he could call Ray to talk to him about it (Inaudible). I felt, he has, he has the, to call the commission and talk to them.

WI: But you didn't direct him to call the other two?

RK: Call to...

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: I told him it was his option if he wanted to call them. I told them I felt that Joe a lot of times put forth, you know, (Inaudible) I felt Joe would, Joe would support it, (Inaudible) I said I don't know, you know, just can't tell what (Inaudible) is gonna do.

WI: Did you want the item to come back on the agenda again?

RK: I really didn't care whether the item came back on the agenda again, in all honesty. I really don't care to see items put back. If it comes back and it's a viable plan that fits in with what everybody else wants to see and it works and good for the port, Ok.

(Inaudible, Talking over each other)

WI: As a port commissioner, do you have the authority to put any item that you want on the agenda?

RK: Yes.

WI: So why not put it back on the agenda to discuss it? Why go through all the hoops of having Gene Sorrows create a viable plan of talking with confidence with Gene Sorrows and Lloyd Milliken whom you could have put it on the agenda yourself and brought up the same issues, the parking, the hundreds of jobs, and the fact that Sun Cruz had already threatened to leave if they left Milliken?

RK: Because I felt, I, I, I feel that um without Stan, Stan has consult...

WI: Tell me if I understood this correct before you, you felt that if you put it on the agenda, everyone would think that you were in bed with the Millikens?

RK: Yes.

WI: Is that a correct answer? So you went around the barn to get in the door?

RK: I was hoping that if there was a viable plan, that maybe other commissioners would look at it and see if it's a win win solution, if they don't then, then so be it. That's really what, I, really trying to get, if, if, a plan worked, and the majority of the commission supported it and the staff supported it, I really felt that, that would work, if the other, if, if the staff turned it down, and it still came before the board, and the majority of the commission turned it down, then that's the end of it. But I really thought that, that, from what I was given the impression of, it was not a closed issue.

WI: Brad, anything else?

BL: Um, (inaudible)

WI: (Laughing

BL: Um, (Inaudible) You have to understand where we're coming from, Like (Inaudible) there's so much more information that we know the answers to that your, that we know are not (Inaudible) accurate on what you're saying and when you sit there and you, and you say that you weren't influenced by Lloyd per say, or his daughter or his son-in-law, or anything, I know that to be factually inaccurate, Okay. Um, I know, with Lloyd busts in the millions he's put into the six hundred and whatever thousand foundation out there for the hotel and other things, he's got a lot invested in to it.

RK: I..

BL: And he's got leverage on you to be able to do things and when you say that you're not influenced by it, I (inaudible) (inaudible) to be honest with you, I think that you're influenced by trying to do the right thing out here but you're caught between this person

who by all accounts from other, is kinda a scary friend of yours. Okay. When I, an, an and I know there's some indicators that there are some influence being applied to your direction from Lloyd or his crew uh, family members and non-family members but the sad thing is, its, it's gonna come out and its gonna be fully known as far as what his leverage is over you and the bottom line is when you sit here and say I don't know, I don't recall, I'm not sure, I'm not (inaudible) well it happened this way and that way and records indicate otherwise, (inaudible) otherwise.

RK: I don't, I don't,

BL: It doesn't look good when you do that.

RK: I just I, I,

BL: And I'm trying to be honest with you. It, it, it's time to shit or get off the pot as far as your involvement with Lloyd and your,

RK: I don't have, I do not have an involvement with Lloyd.

BL: You do have an involvement with Lloyd. You told us yourself today that you have uh, uh a friendship, an emotional involvement. And I don't know and at this point what it is that trips your trigger to do the things that you've done that you by your own account know or things that you shouldn't have done as far as (inaudible) but when you sit here and tell us I don't know, I don't,

RK: I don't,

BL: Ralph it's not accurate, it's (inaudible)

RK: I'm scared.

BL: What are you scared of?

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: We're having a conversation, no need to be scared.

RK: I have a wife. I have a step-daughter. (Inaudible) the point of losing all that and I don't

like to think about that.

WI: Why would you loose all that?

RK: I know I won't but,

WI: What?

RK: I've worked hard.

WI: Ralph is there something that we're not aware of about this connection between you and the Milliken's?

RK: No.

WI: Is there, on a list of fear, is there,

RK: No.

WI: Is there a ugly skeleton in the closet?

RK: No.

WI: If there is, you've got to tell me now.

RK: No.

BL: Then what is it Ralph?

RK: I, I, I,

BL: Is it that, di, did, did you receive compensation from them, the wedding or something at some point like that, cause I can tell you between your, your physical being, you've been doing this and this and this. I understand that but I'm going to tell you something really simply, that you're body mannerisms and the face that you're doing right now between the, the, the emotional semi-cry, semi my wife, my wife, my wife, what is the deal?

RK: (Inaudible) ruined but my wife called it the greatest day of her life, it was nothing, it was nothing we did wrong. It was nothing, but we had the wedding there. We had it at Sunset Café. Yes they are my friends. I have not done any substantial work for them. I have not made any money from them. I have not borrowed any money from them.

BL: Well what would ruin that day?

RK: Amy, Amy, it was a great day. It was a beautiful day, it was a beautiful wedding, it was, the weather couldn't of been perfect. I mean, it was just more perfect, it was just,

BL: What would ruin that day?

RK: Anything that could come out and, and ruin Lloyd.

BL: (Inaudible) like what?

RK: I don't know. I don't know. That's what I'm afraid. That's what I'm afraid of somebody saying.

BL: Somebody's already said something. Somebodies have already said something Ralph so, you can't control people,

RK: I, I,

WI: What is it that you're so deathly afraid of?

RK: I, I'm not,

WI: What would (inaudible)

RK: I'm not afraid of, I'm, I don't want the day, nothing happened that day. Nothing happened, nothing happened nothing, and nothing. Amy has just said that she doesn't want anything to ever happen that could ruin that day and nothing, and nothing has happened that could ruin that day. I'm not even,

WI: What made you and Amy have this conversation?

RK: Do what?

WI: What made you and Amy have this conversation?

RK: Because I came home and I told her that I was um caught in these allegations of, of my relationship with the Milliken's and things like that. Um, and it, it worried me about my relationship here at the Port. It's worried me about public perception and I was really trying to, I didn't want to lose my friends but I didn't want to, I don't want to lose the Port

either and I didn't want to, but my loyalty was here and like I told the Commissioners I said I'm on your side. I'm, I'm a team player and I'm going to you know, if abstain from the votes is what I need to do involving the Milliken's, I have no problem doing that.

BL: (Inaudible) as soon as you get done saying that so you don't wanna be called (inaudible)

WI: What is it that the Milliken's are threatening,

RK: Nothing. They're not threatening (inaudible)

WI: That would ruin that day?

RK: Nothing. They're not threatening me with a thing. They're not threatening me with a thing. I'm just (inaudible) Amy at this point.

WI: So if you walked away from your friendship with the Milliken's, how would that ruin that day?

RK: Nothing would ruin that day. Nothing would ruin that day. I just, you asked me what's bothering me, why am I fidgeting, and I'm thinking of my wife. And an, that's, that's, I have not borrowed any monies from the Milliken's and I haven't done any, any business other than minor repairs at Sunset Café with the Milliken's. I haven't done um, uh,

BL: Ralph (inaudible) you've got, you have on one hand you tell us that you're, you're so worried about the perception of things, you know you're on the hot seat, you, you're trying to distance yourself and yet on the other hand you go around and orchestrate let's do this, let's get the (inaudible) write this down, you need to talk to this person, let me refer you over to this Commissioner, let me refer you over to that Commissioner, and so, so listen to me you know the old saying actions speak louder than words? This is a classic example of that and I'm gonna tell you straight up that here and now is the time between Wayne and myself that you need to go on off and, and and let us see behind the smoke because once the smokes cleared and it will clear. Um cause I'm going up to Carolina's tomorrow and I'm gonna be talking with some people that have been doing some

research for a long time on your friend Okay, and his family. And when the smoke clears um and I find out what the deal is, there's not going to be a nice conversation between us where we can sit down and try to get some sort of take on it. You've got the friendship and I ain't gonna lie to ya. Let us, let us help you decipher through this, but when you say there's nothing and you say,

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Let's put this into perspective for you. Who's your best friend in the whole world?

RK: My wife.

WI: Absolutely and I was hoping you would say that. Alright. Are you willing to jeopardize,

RK: No.

WI: That relationship, your freedom for whatever it is that Lloyd Milliken (inaudible)?

RK: No.

WI: Then it's time to shit or get off the pot. What is it that has put you in this peril with Lloyd Milliken that you can't separate yourself from?

RK: I am, I have separated myself from him.

WI: You've tried.

RK: Other than

WI: But (inaudible)

RK: On this issue. I'm sorry there is nothing. I walked away from it two months ago.

WI: Away from what?

RK: I wal, whatever our friendship was. I, I, I told Amy I said,

WI: Hold on for a minute. That was what you did two months ago? Ralph you walked away from what? Rhoda basically said you were faining your ailment so you didn't have to vote. Which tells me Rhoda already knew what you were gonna do. It also tells me that you were obligated to vote for them and they knew you weren't gonna do it.

RK: I wasn't obligated (inaudible)

WI: Listen to me (Inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: It's time to step, it's time to step to the next level,

RK: Wayne,

WI: Cause everything that's happened before,

RK: The attorney had told me, please, he said,

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: Harold Bislade,

WI: Who we already interviewed.

RK: Harold said that, he said I don't think you can vote. He said,

WI: Did you tell Rhoda that?

RK: Yes I told Rhoda (inaudible)

WI: Then why did Rhoda expect you to vote?

RK: She didn't expect me to vote.

WI: Well then why would she say you were faining an injury?

RK: She didn't,

WI: Or faining your ailment?

RK: Didn't expect, and I told her I didn't even want to be there. I told her I said, I don't even want to go to the meeting today and have to face all this Rhoda. I said there's nothing I can do. Okay. I said they've raised it. In fact I told her I said they've raised stuff on conflict of interest.

WI: Ralph who would have been the first person to vote? What's the sequence of voting?

RK: There is none.

WI: Okay. It failed three to one. So it would've failed three to two?

RK: It would've failed three to two, exactly. And I was just gonna abstain.

WI: Why abstain? You could've voted for it.

RK: Because, because,

WI: And it would've still failed.

RK: No I would have abstained because I didn't have any choice and I knew I didn't have any choice.

WI: Ralph I wanna recommend to you that in your best interest and in the best interest of this Port, that you tell me what it is that is going on behind the smoke that Agent Lewis said because what you're telling me right now buddy, I'm watching you I, I may have to call rescue to you because of your anxiety. It is time to lift this pile of rocks up off of you. It is time to put things in perspective Ralph and quite honestly it's time for you to be able to go back and look in the mirror and be proud of what you see. Because this is eating at you. This has been eating at you buddy. Are you and Lloyd Milliken involved in something other than what we've discussed today?

RK: No sir. No sir.

WI: Did you borrow money from him and you can't repay it?

RK: No sir.

WI: I understand your business is not, just like every other construction business,

RK: No sir.

WI: Not thriving right now.

RK: No sir.

WI: Are you,

RK: I'm not thriving but I'm not starving.

WI: Are you indebted to Lloyd Milliken?

RK: No sir.

WI: Then what would ruin that perfect day?

RK: Nothing would ruin that perfect day other than I'm afraid of something, the bad publicity, something that could embarrass my wife. I'm picturing this getting out like you said and it embarrassing my wife. That, that, that's what I'm nervous about. Okay. I, I never borrowed,

WI: Well let me ask you this,

RK: I've never (inaudible)

WI: That's what you tell me you're nervous about, but something predicated before today, something predicated a conversation between you and Amy not to ruin your wedding day.

RK: When, when, when, when the
(Throat clearing)

RK: There was a reporter that worked for the Orlando Business Journal,

WI: Um-hum.

RK: Wrote an article, you're probably aware of it,

WI: Oh yeah, I am.

RK: Okay. I had a lot of anxiety over that article. Um and I talked at length to Amy about that this article was gonna come out and I told her, I said I don't know where it's gonna lead to or what's going to happen. And she had said I don't want anything to ruin this perfect day. I don't want anything to ruin that. Um, prior to that Amy had said um you know, she said have you paid Rhoda, have you paid Rhoda? I said yes I've paid Rhoda. She said are you sure you paid Rhoda? Yes I've paid Rhoda. She goes I don't want anything to come back to you. (Inaudible) running for re-election, I don't want anything (inaudible)

BL: How'd you pay Rhoda?

RK: By check.

BL: Okay. And, and what repairs did you do to the dock?

RK: At that time it was um,

WI: I just want before we go to that. When Chris Coffman wrote his article, and you didn't think I talked to Chris Coffman did ya?

RK: I'm sure you did.

WI: (Inaudible) When he wrote his article, that's when this conversation between you and Amy occurred?

RK: And, and prior. And prior to this.

WI: How many times did Amy ask you about paying the Milliken's? Which tells me Ralph either you didn't have the money to pay em or you didn't think you (inaudible)

RK: Oh I had the money to pay em.

WI: Or you didn't think you owed it.

RK: No I owed it to em. I owed it to em. I numerous times asked Rhoda I'd say give me a receipt, give me a bill, tell me what I owe.

BL: When did you write this check in comparison to when you got married?

RK: I wrote the check in, I wrote the check in July, got married in April.

BL: And (inaudible) three months to (inaudible)

RK: I kept asking her how much,

WI: How much was that check for?

(Throat clearing)

RK: That check was seventy, seventy-two hundred, seventy-four hundred dollars plus there was the I, we had done some um, the City of Cocoa Beach if I'm not mistaken, had said that they needed to do some uh, put some guardrails up and do some dock repair uh, where they have like a small tiki-hut bar at Sunset Café and she said can you get the crew to do it and I said yeah I've got a carpenter that's not real busy right now, I'll send

him over to do that. And I basically charged her just time and materials to do it.

WI: And how much was that for?

RK: Umm I wanna say around twenty-four hundred dollars.

WI: So where at ten thousand two hundred?

RK: Somewhere in that ballpark, yes.

WI: And your wedding cost how much? Realistically.

RK: Well I don't have all the bills cause we didn't buy everything through them. We had a wedding coordinator and a florist and we bought some of the supplies from them.

WI: How much, how much were you indebted to the Milliken's for, for your wedding?

RK: Whatever that bill was to them.

WI: How much was it?

RK: Well she told, what she told me, she said you owe, she said you owe um, she said it's like seventy-four,

WI: Ralph listen up. You know Rhoda's not real happy with you, right?

RK: Yeah.

WI: Think about what I just said to you. Think about how many people we've talked to. How much was the bill?

RK: Around seventy-two hundred dollars I think. Something like that. And I told her that wasn't enough.

BL: You had how many people a hundred, two hundred people (inaudible)?

RK: Two hundred people.

BL: Two hundred people there and the average of, that I've been told is about a hundred dollars per head, actually I was told it was a hundred and twenty-five, right?

RK: For?

BL: Per person is what the cost was for your wedding.

RK: I don't know.

BL: Let's just say a hundred, you had two hundred. Two hundred people times a hundred is how much twenty thousand dollars?

RK: I don't know, I don't know, I don't know. I don't know.

BL: Let me answer, twenty thousand. Um, and basically it cost you nine thousand dollars. Nine, ten grand. Is that the only issue with them or is there, or is it the involvement in the hotel,

RK: I had no involvement in the hotel. Alright. No involvement in the hotel.

BL: You made no profit on the hotel?

RK: On which hotel?

BL: Which hotel, the one that you just said you had no involvement in?

RK: That, that would be the Milliken Hotel here.

WI: Yeah the (inaudible)

RK: The Alesatell, nothing.

BL: You were not suppose to make any money on that, you had no partnership perceived or, or otherwise on that?

RK: They offered me, they offered me part of the hotel and I told me I said no.

WI: Who's they?

RK: Uh Rhoda, Rhoda had said and she said, she said we're gonna you know we want you to get something in this and I said I can't take anything on that.

WI: Why did they want you to get something out of it?

RK: I don't know because I don't know. Because I helped her with, I helped her free of charge. I never charged em a thing. They asked me to look at plans, they asked me to um talk to some contractors they were talking about and I sat down and helped em with that. I never charged em for any of it and never expected any, any payment for it.

WI: Just so I'm understanding. Ralph we've done our homework. You were voting and talking and finagling on a lease that you were possibly gonna profit from.

RK: How?

WI: Did they offer you part in it?

RK: Part of the hotel? They offered, they offered to give me some percentage in the hotel and I told em I said I can't take that. I knew I couldn't take that. I knew I could not take it.

WI: They also told you, you only owed em seventy-two hundred dollars for your wedding and you knew you owed em more.

RK: And I told her. I, I, I told her I owed more. I said you have outstanding bill.

WI: When did you diminish the invoice for the construction? Was it after Coffman got involved?

RK: Possibly.

WI: Okay and you were trying to clean it up, weren't you Ralph?

RK: Yes.

WI: Why?

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: I (inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: (Inaudible - talking over each other) honesty.

RK: I felt it was too low of a bill.

WI: And if Coffman got (inaudible) you knew it was gonna explode.

BL: (Inaudible)

WI: Now I'm gonna ask you the next question. The Milliken's have threatened to help it explode if you don't help them (inaudible)

RK: No.

WI: Ralph. The Milliken's have threatened to discuss how much your bill was if you don't do what they want.

RK: They have not said that to me.

WI: Have they conveyed it to you?

RK: No.

WI: Are you fearful of that. Answer (inaudible)

RK: Yeah.

WI: Why?

RK: I don't (inaudible)

WI: What would ever make you think that they would do that Ralph?

RK: Don't know.

WI: Because they're desperate?

RK: I don't know. I don't know what their situation is. (Inaudible)

WI: Has there ever been a discussion (inaudible) I need you to be totally forthright. And I (inaudible) remember what we told you about why we have (inaudible)
(Inaudible - static noise)

WI: How much money do you really owe them for your wedding?

RK: No.

WI: What was the discussion?

RK: I asked Rhoda, I said is the bill for the wedding?

WI: Ralph, I'm talking about and you know what I'm talking about but for argument sake, have you and the Milliken's ever discussed the potential of them to go public and ruin that day?

RK: I don't recall (inaudible - static)

WI: Would you recall a conversation (inaudible)

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: I don't, I don't, I don't know if it happened. I, I, I don't think it happened. I remember,

WI: Your own wife, Amy who's the person you say is your best friend, so (inaudible) best friend (inaudible), your own wife Amy hounded you about getting the money paid back to them, didn't she?

RK: Yes.

WI: Why?

RK: She didn't want it to come out.

WI: She didn't want it to come out what?

RK: (inaudible) paid for the wedding.

BL: Well the original, original deal (inaudible) original deal in the whole thing with Milliken and them was it was gonna cost you a goose egg,

RK: That's what she said, I told her I said I can't do that.

BL: Okay. That's what,

WI: Did you tell her that before?

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

WI: Hold on Brad I, I agree with your point. Did you tell her that before or after Chris Coffman came to light?

RK: I told her way at the beginning that I could not accept a gift like that.

WI: But you never paid for it until after Chris Coffman came to light, correct?

RK: No that's not true.

WI: When did you pay for it?

RK: We paid it, we paid for it after the wedding. I was married a year ago April.

WI: When did Chris Coffman's article come out?

RK: This year.

WI: Okay. When did he start doing his investigation?

RK: I don't know.

WI: Let me tell you, I said when he came to light, when you became aware of who he is.

RK: Umm we had paid for it last year.

WI: But you didn't pay for it for three months.

RK: She didn't give me the bill. I kept asking, I said Rhoda howmuch do I owe you, how much do I owe you? Okay and you gotta give me the bill and she didn't give it to me. I saw her one day and I said Rhoda, I said I gotta paythe bill. Okay. Amy's hounding me, I got to pay the bill well how much do I owe you?

WI: Ralph has it been your concern and your,
(Coughing)

WI: Fear that Lloyd and Rhoda and Jason are going to exploit the truth about your wedding bill?

RK: I asked her what, what the cost of the bill was.

WI: I'm asking you, forget the costs. Is that your fear, that they are going to exploit you if you don't assist them?

RK: I did not, no. That was not my fear. That was (inaudible)

WI: What was your fear?

RK: That, that's my own personal fear.

WI: Well that's still a fear.

RK: Yeah.

WI: I mean (inaudible)

RK: But no they never, they never, they never threatened me with that.

WI: Did they allude to it?

RK: No.

WI: Did they ever say you owe us?

RK: No.

WI: Then why did Rhoda make a comment? Let me ask you this, if I put what we know and what I can prove in front of a Grand Jury and you were sitting in the chair of one of the jurors, would you indict yourself?

(Pause)

WI: I (inaudible) answer Ralph.

(Pause)

WI: Would ya? Would you, would you agree with me that the evidence is overwhelming that you have been involved in a conspiracy with Lloyd Milliken and Gene Sorrows?

RK: No. I, I, I there was not any conspiracy or any personal gain (inaudible)

WI: I didn't say personal gain. I said were you in a conspiracy? And monetarily,

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

WI: Did you stand to gain if Gene Sorrows gave you the contract at the Holiday Inn?

RK: Yes.

WI: So now I'm gonna ask you again, if you were in a Grand Jury juror's chair, would you indict yourself?

(Pause)

WI: Now we all agree on that. Now tell me why. Take this opportunity to help yourself. Tell me why it is you're in this chair? Tell me why it is that Lloyd Milliken and Rhoda have that control over you, that is quite honestly kickin' the shit outta you.

RK: (Inaudible) I, I, I've been honest with you. I know it doesn't seem like it.

WI: No I, I, I,

RK: I have (inaudible - talking over each) trying to be.

WI: I think, I think we're (inaudible) we're pulling teeth, is what we're doing. You're trying to be and your heart is telling you, you need to do the right thing.

RK: No, no, no, I'm trying to, in my mind, I have, I, I do not owe them any money. I've never borrowed any money from them.

WI: Um-hum.

RK: I have never owed a debt a to them. I haven't done that. It, it, it, is, it, it's literally, I'm tellin' the both of ya, Okay. I really feel

(Pause)

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: There's some truth, yeah. I, I really feel, I really felt that they were my friends and I really felt that I, they were doing a lot of good here at the Port. I really felt that sometimes they were not getting, they were getting a raw deal from the staff sometimes and a lot of it was to do with the way they approached situations and issues and um, and I (inaudible) but ultimately I felt that they were doing some good with the investments they've made here. First Lloyd and, and, and the Port saved money on the Sun Cruise and that was part of (inaudible)

BL: Your loyalty is because you liked him and you think they're doing good stuff.

RK: I thought they were doing some good stuff here, yeah.

BL: So the story you hear about how they abuse their tenants, how they basically try to screw people out of things, it's (inaudible)

RK: I don't, I don't,

BL: (Inaudible) bad dealings, it's shady appearance, all that stuff means nothing because you think (inaudible)

RK: No I didn't say that they didn't, I f,

BL: Oh come on Ralph.

RK: Abuse of tenants I don't know anything about.

BL: Okay how he comes in breaks people in, says you can't use the bulkhead now even though you're doing our bait and supply store. Uh (inaudible) basic, I mean I've been involved in the Port for uh, uh the tenth of the time that you've been out here and I can tell you story after story uh of everybody being fearful of him because he screws people over left and right, every chance he gets. Okay so don't throw the (inaudible) out there like (inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: It, it, it's really, truly (inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: Because he gets a bad deal. He gets a bad deal because he brings (inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: (Inaudible) you're absolutely correct.

WI: Have you ever heard that he's involved in the narcotics trade?

RK: No.

BL: You must be the only person in Brevard County that hasn't heard.

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: I guarantee I can go out and three people go by I'll ask em what they know about him, what've heard about him? I betcha two out three,

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: I'll betcha doughnuts,

RK: I, I, I have never,

BL: (Inaudible) he's been out here twenty years?

RK: I, I have never seen it and never been involved with it and don't know anything about it. I have never,

BL: I didn't ask you if you knew anything about it, I asked you have you ever heard anything (inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: (Inaudible) if I heard anything, I heard that there was an allegations (inaudible)

BL: So why do you say no?

RK: I'm sorry.

BL: No stop the bullshit.

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: (Inaudible - talking over each other) Supervisor. I'm telling you I'm getting tired of it cause I've done a lot of research on you (inaudible) than he is. You're jerking me off. You're jerking him off,

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: And it's disrespectful to you and your family to put yourself in that position to,

RK: I've (inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: To be not only a fool who made a mistake but a liar and a fool and enough is enough. I'm not gonna tolerate it anymore. Okay.

WI: Ralph this is what I want from you. I want you to tell me, I want you to take a deep breath. Now I want you to tell me why it is that you're so fearful of going against the Milliken's?

RK: I'm not fearful (inaudible)

WI: What is it that they can hurt you with?

RK: Nothing.

WI: What is it that can hurt your integrity, your political career, your family, what is it? Because clearly there is something,

RK: I'm not, I'm not,

WI: That is forcing that on you.

RK: I'm not uh, uh,

WI: And if it's your wedding Ralph, if that's what it is, if you know you owe thirty thousand

dollars, and you only paid em seventy-eight hundred dollars and you've guys called it a wash, it's shit. Everybody knows it anyway. It's not a shocker. I didn't throw out thirty thousand dollars cause it's the first figure that came to my head. If that's what it is, throw that on the table.

RK: Th, that, that honest to God, that's all it is. That's the only thing there is, I (inaudible-talking over each other)

WI: (Inaudible) how much should your wedding have cost Ralph?

RK: I don't know. I figured somewhere around fifteen to twenty thousand, maybe.

WI: And you paid seventy-eight hundred.

RK: I asked, I asked her I said, I said how much is it? She throws up seventy, whatever it was, seventy-eight hundred that was it was. She throws it out. I said are you sure that's everything? And she said yeah. She said I charged you cost on a lot of stuff. I charged you cost. I said, did you know, I said can you document what the costs were and she said yeah.

WI: And so do you feel obligated, as a result of that, and I agree it's, it's a fair, fair concern (Coughing)

WI: But as a result of that concern, you feel obligated to vote for to keep your friendship with them? Because you're scared that it's gonna come back on you?

RK: No, no, no, no, no.

WI: Which no is it, you just said it five times in a row? Which for us, is a strong indicator of deception.

RK: I'm not, I'm not trying to deceive you. I'm really not.

WI: Then tell me what it is Ralph because I'm trying to help you.

RK: I, I, I'm

WI: Brad is past that. I'll be honest with you, I brought (inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

WI: I can see how frustrated he is, in fact I'm about to have him step outside in the rain for a few minutes. But, but Ralph, tell me what it is because you know what, everyone of us screws up in our life. Everyone of us (inaudible)

RK: My screw up, my screw up in life is becoming their friend. Okay. They, they,

WI: I believe that.

RK: Okay.

WI: But if that's your screw up,

RK: That and, and, and that,

WI: Everyone of us makes mistakes.

RK: That was my screw up.

WI: You know what's the worse mistake we ever make?

RK: Lying about it.

WI: Lying about it.

RK: I'm not trying to lie to you about it.

WI: So your fear

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Is that you owe them excess for your wedding, or more money for your wedding than what you actually paid and somebody's gonna find out? And every time that the hall whisper goes on, there's Ralph Kennedy whose wedding cost thirty thousand dollars and he got it for virtually free. That's your fear?

RK: Th, that, that I mean that, th an, and when you talk about why do I do certain things, I really felt a lot of their plans, what they wanted to do here for the Port, were good plans.

BL: And I don't disagree with you. I don't disagree with the fact that what you're saying is, is that I think some of your intentions were good, but I'm gonna tell you bottom line is and if

this is the only thing, the wedding is the only issue, that you got a wedding for a third of the cost of it, then it's Okay, that's not a big issue. I mean I could,

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: But I'm gonna tell you that if there's, there's other stuff and there's plenty of indicators and just, just from a lack of trying at this particular point uh, of some other things that are going on between you and Milliken's and the whole, the whole gang, but there's other indicators, you better get em out now.

RK: That's fine.

BL: Cause (inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each) I'm tellin' ya,

BL: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: As far as the hotel goes and that issue, they said well we're gonna cut you in, we're gonna cut you in.

BL: How were they gonna cut you in?

RK: I don't know. Never heard,

BL: Bullshit. Bullshit. How do you know?

RK: Cause they told me. They told me they were gonna cut me in for part of the hotel.

WI: How were they gonna design it so that it wasn't Ralph Kennedy being cut it, was it Amy?

RK: No. No.

WI: How were you gonna get the funding?

RK: I was not gonna get any funding for it cause I wasn't gonna take anything for it.

BL: What about Nick?

RK: Nick had offered, Nick had said, Nick had said um,

BL: Think about what you're gonna tell me now cause this is gonna be the last question,

WI: He didn't just ask you about Nick. He didn't just happen to throw out the name Nick. He

asked for a reason.

RK: Nick said, Nick, Nick we was working on a job and I said well, they said maybe there's some way you could, you could work supervisor for Nick or something like that and I said I don't see how that would work and I asked Nick I said you know and Nick said, I said is there something I can, I can sub from you know or do for you, you know, maybe. Okay.

WI: And Nick was gonna pay you money?

RK: If, if, if, if it,

WI: Under the table?

RK: No. I was not gonna, that's what talked about and I was like nu,nu, nu, nu, no.
(Inaudible) said Nick would pay you,

BL: So you're telling me that with the Nick thing is was nu,nu, nun, no?

RK: I was not going to accept any money under the table from Nick (inaudible)

BL: Do you have a computer nearby. I'm gonna get you a disc with the conversation with Nick, if you wanna sit there and turd me off cause I (inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: I wanna laugh at you before we're done. (Inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: Right now (inaudible) I'm going from liking you to disliking you has occurred right before your eyes.

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: So you wanna tell me about the hotel thing and Nick and, and all that stuff?

WI: You just sit there and told us Ralph that you said I don't see how that's gonna work, which means you were

RK: And uh,

WI: Receptive to getting paid.

RK: No. It means, it means I don't know how, how with, how I could take money and still be a Port Commissioner. I couldn't do it. I couldn't, I could not have taken, I could not have taken the hotel. Okay. I know I couldn't of taken it, honest to God.

BL: So you received you no money from Nick during that uh, there were no plans for you to receive any money from Nick or from,

RK: There was uh, or from the Milliken's?

BL: Yes.

RK: They had talked about you know, we're, we're gonna take care of you, we're gonna take care of you for all your work. Uuuh, you know I just let it go as (inaudible)

WI: All your work?

RK: First for, for, um,

WI: (Inaudible) Commission?

RK: Do what?

WI: As a Commissioner?

RK: No, for helping them with, for helping them with um, uh they interviewed a couple of other contractors and they asked me to sit in and what I thought. Okay. They asked me to look at the plans for em um, with engineers and, and offer suggestions of what I might've thought. Okay. About that.

WI: When was the (inaudible) (inaudible)

RK: Which list?

(Coughing)

WI: For the hotel.

RK: I don't recall. I don't recall. I, I, I'm really not.

WI: Ralph, how were they gonna compensate ya?

BL: It didn't happen so (inaudible)

RK: I know it didn't happen but I don't know, I don't, they had talked at one time about there being a percentage of the hotel and I, I knew that was never gonna happen. Okay. I mean I wasn't even expecting it. It wasn't, wasn't this part of my life or anything else that you know,

WI: You weren't planning your livelihood on it?

RK: No I wasn't planning (inaudible)

WI: How was it gonna be shaped, how were they gonna getcha the money without,

RK: I, I have, I have no, I have no,

WI: Because Chris Coffman would find that.

RK: I have no, there was no, it, it, was, they mentioned it and nothing and nothing never came of it. Nothing was ever gonna come of it. I knew I could not take payment for it. I knew that.

WI: Then why did you discuss it with em?

RK: I didn't discuss it with them, I just never, it was, it, they offered it to me. I did not discuss it.

WI: I've gotta be honest with you Ralph. There's an old adage that when a man gets hit on by a girl at a bar, it's probably because he was sendin' off signals that he wanted to be hit on. Were you puttin' off those same signals?

RK: No, no, no. No, (inaudible) no. They asked me, they asked me one time if I wanted to build it, if I could build it (inaudible - static noise) and I told (inaudible - static noise) there's no way. I, I, I (static noise) I said I talked to some people and they said and they said well what do you think? I said well,

WI: Did you recommend a builder for them?

RK: I suggested that. I said would you like me to recommend somebody? And they said yeah. (Inaudible)

WI: And how much of a kickback were you gonna from him?

RK: I don't,

WI: Uh,uh, uh,

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: How much of a kickback were you gonna get from Nick?

RK: I never asked Nick for a kickback.

BL: I didn't ask you that.

RK: Huh?

BL: I know you did. Remember I've already spoken with Nick.

WI: I didn't ask you what you were asking him for, I said how much were you gonna get?

RK: I, I, I don't, I didn't. I (inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: (Inaudible) How much were you gonna get Ralph, that's a simple question. It can be answered with I was gonna get five hundred thousand dollars, it can be answered with I was gonna get nothing or it can be answered with,

RK: Okay, nothing.

BL: You weren't gonna get a kickback from Nick?

RK: No I was not gonna get (inaudible)

BL: Before I end this conversation, that's what you end with? (Inaudible) yeah that's what I thought, all the shit.

RK: I thought you were telling me,

WI: Ralph, I told you at the very beginning,

RK: I'm being honest with you,

WI: Don't lie to me.

RK: I'm being honest with you. I did not ask Nick for a kickback.

WI: I didn't (inaudible)

BL: Who did the foundation out there?

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: At the hotel?

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: At the hotel. Who did the foundation for all the footings and all the other stuff that's been done?

RK: W&J Construction.

BL: How much did you profit from that?

RK: Zero.

BL: Did you refer em too?

RK: Yeah it was Nick.
(Inaudible)

RK: Zero.

WI: (Inaudible) nothing from that?

RK: Zero.

BL: And what did Nick say about that?

RK: I didn't get any money from Nick for that.

WI: When you referred Nick to them,

RK: Yeah.

WI: And you get no kinda kickback?

RK: Yeah.

BL: Were there any offers made to get any kickbacks or any (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible) do what?

WI: Does Nick give you any work?

RK: No.

WI: You never got any construction work from Nick?

RK: No.

WI: Ever?

RK: No. Our family, our families, my father use to work a company, a contractor years ago called J&S Martin Construction and Nick's father-in-law worked at the same construction. Okay. My dad left and started his company, Nick's father-in-law left and started his company. Okay. They grew to be a, a, a large contractor. We've always stayed relatively small. Um, there was always uh,

WI: Let me stop you for a minute. How much were you suppose to get from the construction job with Nick?

RK: Zero.

WI: There was never a discussion,

RK: Not, no, not that I recall.

WI: Okay why was there a discussion about you being a supervisor for Nick?

RK: Rhoda, Rhoda suggested
(Coughing)

RK: She said you gotta get something out of (inaudible) and I said you know (inaudible) and I was almost like

WI: Get something outta what?

RK: Rhoda said you outta be gettin' something,

WI: Get something outta what? What was it that you did that was so dynamic that you should be rewarded for?

RK: For, for helping them with the plans review, architects and that sorta thing on the project.

BL: How many times did you do that Ralph?

RK: How many times did I review the plans?

BL: How many times did you help them, specifically tell me what you did to help them?

RK: They asked me, they, they said uh, they had a hotel consultant,

BL: Okay.

RK: That had said uh what you (inaudible) you know (inaudible). I told Rhoda I said, I said that's up to you. Okay. I don't know what, how many hotels they've done or anything else.

BL: Okay so, so far you have a 30 second call with Rhoda,

RK: Yeah.

BL: Okay (inaudible)

RK: Yeah.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: And then it was, and then it was um, you know can you look at this, the site plans you know and give us your opinion about the site plan and that sort of thing. (Inaudible) like locations of the pool.

BL: So you look at the site plan, the pools, layout of it, the whole,

RK: Right, things like that.

BL: Okay, so how long did that take?

RK: And like I said I met with,

BL: Approximately a half hour? And I'm being generous probably, looking at the site plan?

RK: Well uh longer than that.

BL: Okay.

RK: Ee, it, it, ee um there were numerous times of looking at rev uh, revisions to the plans and things like that.

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: Back when it looked like this thing was gonna happen.

BL: Ballpark, what time frame?

RK: Uhh four, five years ago. (Inaudible) I mean this things been going on at least that long.

WI: And so because you had helped them as their friend, she felt like you should get something out of it?

RK: She felt I should get something for it and I said no, can't.

BL: Do you find anything wrong with the fact that for a grand total of how many hours of your time was invested in, in helping oversee this potential project, how many hours would you guess?

RK: I don't know,

BL: Guesstimate.

RK: Hundred or more.

BL: Okay. So let's just say a hundred hours, hundred and fifty hours, which seems a lil' excessive but, was there any conflict about the Milliken's getting that lease?

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: No.

WI: Was there any conflict about the Milliken's getting that lease?

(Pause)

WI: Was it an issue with the Port (inaudible) you can go ahead and answer Ralph, I got,

WI: And who was the champion of that lease?

RK: I was.

WI: And who pushed it on the agenda? On the board? Go ahead an answer.

RK: I did.

WI: And is that what you were suppose to get compensated for?

RK: Yes but I wasn't gonna accept the compensation for it. It was, it was, I felt like like the

right job to do, I was not expecting compensation. I wasn't gonna accept compensation.

That (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible)

(Coughing)

WI: I hear a lot of I wasn't gonna accept compensation. I wasn't gonna do that, I wasn't gonna do that. But if you put it into it's most smallest ideal, you did accept compensation.

You had a thirty thousand dollar wedding which you paid seventy-eight hundred dollars for three months later after the shit hit the fan.

RK: No. That's not true.

WI: Your own wife hounded you, telling you to write em a check.

RK: (Inaudible) but not, but not, (inaudible)

WI: (Inaudible - talking over each)

RK: But it was not, (inaudible)

WI: But there was something causing her to hound you. My wife hounds me because I don't do what she tells me,

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other) she wanted to make sure everybody was paid.

WI: Why didn't she write the check herself? That's how my wife does it. She writes the check. Who writes the checks at your house Brad?

BL: Generally my wife.

WI: Why didn't she write the check and say here boy, here Ralph, here's the check,

RK: Amy, Amy, Amy, is not on my checking account, other than a (inaudible). Okay. She could have but (inaudible)

WI: Amy didn't write the check because the shit hit the fan Ralph.

RK: When the article from Chris Coffman came out this year,

WI: I'm not talking about the article or Chris Coffman. I'm talking about all the speculation

around here. I'm talking about exactly what you just said, exactly what you said to me that you knew people were talking about it. You felt like it could hurt you politically. You felt like it attacked your integrity. Those are your words, not mine.

BL: When it was first brought up in the meetings,

WI: What was brought up in the meeting?

BL: From what I understand (inaudible)

WI: Was it brought up on the floor Ralph?

RK: I don't remember if it was brought up on the floor or not. (Inaudible) issue that (inaudible)

WI: And was the wedding discussed?

RK: I can't remember if it was discussed at the meeting there or discussed (inaudible)

WI: Who discussed it (inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible) trying to hear the context of the meeting. Whether, whether the recording was on or not but he said, he said you had your wedding at the restaurant. I said well,

WI: Did you write the check after that?

RK: No. I had written the check before.

BL: Are you positive about that? (Inaudible) and your checking account.

RK: I wrote the check before. Um the check did not cash uh, I asked Rhoda where the check was? She said I tore it up. I said you cannot tear up the check. I have to pay, (inaudible) amount. So I wrote up another check.

(Coughing)

RK: Okay. At that time the um, (inaudible - papers shuffling noise)

BL: (Inaudible)

(Pause)

WI: Never mind, no answer. Go ahead finish.

(Inaudible)

RK: The tropical storm hit and her docks were wiped out down here and she said you know can you come down and give me a price (inaudible)? And I said Okay I'll come down and take a look at it and we got prices from numerous dock guys to come in and she couldn't afford anybody and then when we got down to the end of the day and I said how much you know, you know, she was just gettin' killed by not having her docks there she said you know,

BL: (Inaudible) do that?

RK: Saturday and Sunday traffic, the boaters and that sort of thing. Her, and there was an issue with the DEP and the City of Cocoa Beach and those all had to get cleared up. (Inaudible) and um second check that was wrote I held in my office for a while because I said if I give this check, she's gonna spend it and she needs it for her docks. And when we finally got the Okay from the DEP and we got um, City of Cocoa Beach issues resolved, I got a building permit. Okay. I said here's your check. Okay, now you have the money to pay for this part of your dock. I said you can get this done, Okay. And that will take care of you know, repairing the big main dock (inaudible) and I said (inaudible) will take care of that.

WI: So,

RK: We, we, I had,

WI: So you held the check.

RK: I held the check knowing,

WI: So that she wouldn't be irresponsible with it?

RK: And blow it.

WI: And does she not help manage a multi-million dollar business?

RK: Yes she does.

(Coughing)

RK: Yes she does and I don't, but she would, she was very short on cash at that time. Okay
And I said I need the docks.

WI: When I called you today and I told you (inaudible) what was the first thing you said?
(Pause)

BL: What was the last phone conversation I had, I can answer that. What did I do wrong or
something almost verbatim,

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: Am I, am I, did I, did I hit it on the nose?

WI: Why would you ask that?

RK: The only reason why FDLE would want to talk to me is if something was wrong or you
know, it was an interview about,

WI: Ralph,

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: In every other aspect of your life,
(Coughing)

WI: You don't do anything wrong, do you pal?

RK: Well I try not to.

WI: Your association with the Milliken's got out of control. And I don't know maybe, maybe
you wanted so much for that to be a special day for your wife that you thought it would be
Okay. (Inaudible) and I understand that, cause I, I do the same thing with my wife. I try
so hard to make everything perfect with her, but not where (inaudible)

BL: Is it because of the financial strains, is it the Rickman thing or, what was going on at that
time that, were you just busted out that you took the easy path or what Ralph?

RK: We were short of cash, we were short of money and she said ask them what the bill is

gonna be.

BL: Ralph.

RK: I, I understand what you are saying. I, I didn't.

BL: Ralph there are conversations that happen for every single wedding that's ever been created since mankind. I betcha when they threw two, smashed two rocks for light back in the cave days, they were asking each other how much those rocks were gonna cost before the, before the thing. So when you tell me hadn't had discussions about the money

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: I'll tell you straight up, with all due respect, you're a liar.

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: You think I'm a fool

RK: No, no. I asked what, what all this was going to cost.

BL: Um-hum.

RK: Okay. So much per head, how was it gonna be done,

BL: And the answer was?

RK: She said don't worry about it.

BL: Right. And the prudent Commissioner who sits on the Board that does business with them, would come back and say what?

RK: I need to know what the exact cost is.

BL: Right. And her response at was at that point what, or did you not ask that question?

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: Hypothetically.

WI: Did you ask that question?

RK: I asked her what's it cost (inaudible) and I asked her,

WI: And she said don't worry about it,
RK: I said, I said, (inaudible)
WI: And what'd you say?
RK: What's the cost per head (inaudible)
WI: And what'd she say?
RK: Uh I don't recall. I, I really don't,
WI: (Inaudible - talking over each other)
RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other) what she said was in the neighborhood of
(Coughing)
RK: (inaudible) twenty-five dollars per person is what she told me.
BL: How much?
RK: Twenty-two, to twenty-five dollars per person (inaudible)
BL: And that's for reception, dinner and an open bar?
RK: No, no that was for the food.
BL: Okay.
RK: Okay. And I had, I had no idea what the bar was gonna run.
BL: It was an open bar.
RK: Yeah.
BL: So you've got an open bar and you have two hundred people and it's only around twenty,
twenty-five bucks per person.
RK: No. I said that was,
BL: I'm pretty sure my degree is in Criminal Justice but that doesn't add up (inaudible)
RK: I know, no but,
BL: (Inaudible - talking over each other)
RK: I was discussing more of the food (inaudible)

WI: I'm growing tired.

RK: I'm sorry Wayne.

WI: That's Okay but I, I want you to take this opportunity to put out on the table anything else you think they hold over you because if this thing turns ugly, do you wanna be the one holding the bag?

RK: No sir.

WI: Who does? Who should be holding that bag? I'm gonna ask you again, has the Milliken's threatened to divulge that you didn't pay them for the wedding and that's what's caused you to act in this manner? You're shaking your head in the affirmative.

RK: No the Milliken's did not threaten.

WI: Then what caused all this?

RK: All the anxiety?

WI: All the anxiety, all the peculiar behavior, all the, secrecy, conspiracy, a lil' birdie told me, all this. What caused this Ralph?

RK: There's this, theres', Okay. I, I, I didn't, I didn't, which one do you want me to answer first? The lil' birdie thing?

WI: No I want you to answer the big picture. Why is Ralph here? A man who has been a Port Commissioner for nineteen years, caught between a rock and a hard place.

RK: The only reason why I felt that on the hotel issue for example, that they invested . (inaudible) as I'm told, about four million dollars. And they didn't, they lost their lease. I feel bad that they lost their lease. Okay.

WI: Who had the lease in the first place?

RK: I helped get, get,

WI: You championed it, on the Board?

RK: I did.

WI: So who was the biggest pusher (inaudible)

RK: I was.

WI: Okay. Did they ask you to do that?

(Static noise / coughing)

RK: No they did not directly ask me.

WI: You know maybe I've been asking the wrong question here. Maybe I've been asking did the Milliken's offer to pay you this, did they do this, did they do that? Maybe the right question is, did you seek compensation from them?

RK: No sir I did not.

WI: Because I'm startin', I'm startin' to sit here and wonder, if they didn't all of this, if they didn't threaten you, and they didn't do all this,

RK: They,

WI: Did you go to them on this matter?

RK: Lloyd, Lloyd was, Lloyd was afraid,

BL: Here's what my guess is on what I think he's afraid to say. (Inaudible) this is, this is the whole reason right here Ralph that you're (inaudible) if you ever played poker with me, I would destroy you because I'm gonna tell you why, cause every time you sit there and you're about to fib, the I don't recall, I say Ralph you gotta good hand, I don't recall. It's (inaudible) I don't recall. Well did you know or did you talk about the wedding and getting taken care of and this kind of a tit for tat (inaudible) just help me out (inaudible) I don't recall, I'm not sure.

RK: Did Rhoda say that, yeah.

WI: Did she say what?

RK: She said you've helped us out with a lot of different things, yes we want to do this for you and I said you can't you do that. I gotta pay.

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible)

(Coughing)

BL: (Inaudible) I don't want to admit that I accepted at first a wedding for my support, a free wedding, (inaudible). And actually to be honest with you, I thought at first that based on Milliken stories that I've heard, that he probably had something over your head, something that was uh, blackmail, you did coke with him, you screwed hookers, uh and I think that that,

RK: (Inaudible)

(Inaudible - too many talking at one time - cannot differentiate)

BL: (Inaudible) but you know the bottom line is Ralph, um and uh, and uh, and I'm, it's sad, it's sad to me though that you still wanna stick your head in the sand,

RK: (Inaudible) Okay,

BL: I don't recall, I don't know, I don't wanna hear any more of it. If you can't sit there and be man enough to sit there and say straight up, Brad and Wayne, I know that my wedding should've cost more, I know I should've sat there and done the right thing. I fd up. Okay. But instead you sit there and you play well I didn't know what it was. (Inaudible) didn't discuss Okay well maybe we did discuss it. (Inaudible) because you know when you do that, I'm gonna tell you what it makes me think of and it makes me wanna latch onto your leg really, really hard like a pit bull. Cause when you tell me these little lies about these little things, that tells,

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: Listen to me Ralph. That tells me that I am on to something that is much bigger than this wedding thing. And I'm gonna ask you real point blank, how much money did you receive from the Milliken's through the years? Because obviously, if its, if its just this lil'

bullshit stuff that you won't be honest about, then there's a whole lot more to it. So cut the shit and just tell me what the deal is. How much money have you received from them throughout the years? Cause I think you're a crook. I'm gonna tell you straight up. I think you're a crook. Wayne on the other hand sticks up for you and says no, no, this guy's a solid guy. I think he (inaudible) and pretty much a whole bunch of other things that I initially thought but I think you're a (inaudible - banging sound) politician, Ralph. Did I leave anything, did I misconstrue anything? Cause I think you've received a bunch of money from these people throughout the years. I think you're as dirty as the Millicent's are and I don't (inaudible) you wanna stick your head in the sand with me? Stick your head in the sand with me and watch what happens. But if it's this, then tell that it's this, or, or, or persuade me otherwise because all you've done at this particular point is make me wanna latch on your leg and prove that you've received (inaudible) year after year to go on off and do whatever they wanna do out there. Am I wrong about this Ralph?

RK: I have not accepted other money from them. They have paid me periodically for doing um, um, they paid me some money years and years ago for helping them with uh some survey work, for um helping divide some property um, for tax work, things like that. Miscellaneous things that I did for them and they paid me some money for that.

WI: (Inaudible) how much money?

RK: About five thousand dollars, overall.

BL: And where was this work done?

RK: Uhm,

BL: (Inaudible) mysterious sites?

RK: Um they weren't mysterious, I had um, I helped Rhoda with, with her leases were such here on the D&L lease that they have separate em for uh property taxes.

BL: Were you a Commissioner?

RK: Yeah.

BL: Should you have been doing that?

RK: I don't know. No.

WI: How'd they pay you?

RK: No.

WI: How'd they pay you?

RK: They paid in cash.

(Inaudible)

BL: Why cash Ralph? Say it. You know the answer. You know stop hesitating. You know the answer, all you're doing is wasting time. You know the whole answer. Why'd they pay you cash, Ralph? Don't lie to me Ralph.

RK: To keep it quiet (inaudible)

BL: Okay why would they have to keep it quiet?

RK: I don't know. (Inaudible)

BL: There's the I don't know again.

RK: (Inaudible) well there was no reason, there was no reason to keep it quiet. I mean I'm sure they don't,

WI: (Inaudible) you're a Commissioner. You're doing business with people in the Port, with a tenant.

BL: Is that against the By-Laws for what you're suppose to be doing?

RK: Yes.

BL: Is it an ethical issue?

RK: Yes.

BL: Is it criminal?

RK: I don't know (inaudible) Is it criminal?

WI: Doing things as a Commissioner for monetary gain, is a Third Degree Felony. Ralph,
that brings us right back to what Brad said earlier. How much money have you received
(inaudible)

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: How many times did the Milliken's come to you and say we need you to champion this for
us, we need you to do this, we need you to do that?

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: And how many times did you get compensated for it?

RK: Never. Never. They never, they never

WI: I want, I want right now on this table,

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Don't interrupt me please. I want from you right now, and I want you to dig deep within
yourself as the person I walked in this room believing you are, and the person I hope to
walk (inaudible) and tell me the absolute truth. How many times did they compensate
you,
(Coughing)

WI: For being their ambassador on the Board?

RK: Never.

WI: Never. When you eat free, that's not compensating you?

RK: I'm sorry.

WI: Seriously Ralph.

RK: I, I, I'm sorry. Numerous times for, for, for (inaudible) uh, uh, a few free drinks here and
there and,

WI: Ralph, let me, how about the hotel, let's go back to that, cause that's eating at my ass.

How about this hotel Ralph, that you said you told em hey, I couldn't do that,

RK: I did not collect,

WI: I didn't say you collected a dime, but it was in the plan for you to collect a dime, wasn't it?

RK: It was in their plan for me to collect a dime not for me. They wanted me, they wanted me, they felt I needed to get something out of it.

WI: Out of what?

RK: That if they built a hotel they felt I needed to get some part of it.

WI: Out, wel, well what was you, why would they feel that?

BL: What specifically did they offer?

RK: Because, because they felt, they felt that you know, you know you pushed this hotel, you've helped us with this, you oughta get something out of it. And I told em, I said I couldn't, I couldn't. You know and they kept saying,

WI: What did they offer?

RK: (Sigh) they offered, they offered a um, some sort of percentage of somehow and then uh, I told em,

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: (Sigh)

WI: If it got down to the we,

(Coughing)

WI: How as the percentage gonna be paid to you Ralph?

(Pause)

BL: Ralph you know the answer.

RK: I think Rhoda said something about taking something out of her part of it or something.

WI: And she was gonna do what with it?

RK: That part I don't recall. I guess that she was suppose to get some small part of it, some

I

percentage of it and she said I'll give you, you know I'm gonna take care of you,

WI: How much was she gonna give you?

RK: I do not recall that.

WI: (Inaudible) how much was she going to give you?

(Pause)

BL: There is a specific figure. I can tell you based on looking at you, that there's a specific number that was talked about (inaudible) you're just not divulging it. So when you say you don't know,

RK: I don't, honest to God, I, I do not recall a specific number that was,

WI: What was the percentage?

RK: (Sigh)

(Coughing)

RK: I don't recall a specific percentage?

BL: What do you recall, because you recall something that you're not being honest (inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: No, I, I, I, I, I'm, I'm looking, I'm looking at you dea, I'm looking at you dead in the eye and I, and I,

WI: (Inaudible)

(Writing sound)

WI: Here's what I'm gonna do (inaudible) Okay. You understand that, what's written on that piece of paper? AB D, what's missing?

RK: C.

WI: Can you remember the A? When you're looking at the alphabet you can remember A,

RK: Right.

WI: And you can remember B.

RK: Right.

WI: But you can't remember C, but you remember D. Does that make logic to you? That's what you're doing. You remember everything vividly that's not damning to you. Everything that's not hurting you, you remember vividly. But whenever you're hit with what we call a hard target question, I don't recall. And you now what you do right before that, which is really degraded (inaudible) thing you can do?

(Shuffling paper noise)

RK: Don't tell me.

BL: (Inaudible) move on to something else.

RK: Now let me clarify that. I am, I, I did just quit taking antibiotics, I was diagnosed with, with bronchitis last week.

WI: You don't do it any other time other than when you get hit with a hard target question.

RK: Um.

WI: Just like right then. You just saw yourself do it (chuckle) didn't you?

RK: No Wayne. Wayne and Brad honestly,

WI: Ralph (inaudible)

(Inaudible - too many talking at one time)

RK: I'm trying to tell you the truth,

WI: How much were you suppose to get for that hotel?

RK: (Sigh)

WI: Did you hear that? What was that? Was that (inaudible)

RK: (Inaudible) I'm sorry.

BL: Don't be sorry. We, it helps us to do our job, Ralph keep doing it.

WI: Ralph, end this right now. Tell me how much you were suppose to get paid for the hotel.

RK: They, they,

(Pause)

WI: Take a deep breath and tell me.

(Coughing)

(Pause)

RK: If I pull a number out, I, it's nothing I'm certain of and I, I'm

WI: What was discussed?

(Pause)

WI: That questions not gonna go away.

RK: I, I know, I know, I know, I'm trying to recall any conversations I've had. Okay. Please bear with me.

WI: What was the money that was discussed?

(Pause)

BL: He's switched from thinking about the answer and thinking about other things.

RK: No. I can't.

WI: You can remember A, that Rhoda was gonna take it out of her part. You can remember B, how they were gonna give it to you but you can't remember how much it was C? And D you can remember that you weren't gonna take it. (Inaudible) Tell me how much they offered,

RK: They were not, they, they, they,

WI: I didn't say you took it. Tell me how much they offered you?

RK: They, I wanna say it was just a couple of percent or something like that it wasn't,

WI: And that equated out to what?

RK: A dollar amount?

WI: Yeah.

RK: (Sigh) honest to God I do not,

I

BL: (Inaudible) a couple percent of the value of the hotel?

RK: I, I have no IDE, I, I don't know. In all honesty Okay, it was never uh, I, I, don't recall it because it was never something that I ever said great, you know give it to me, Okay fine. You know I never.

WI: When you engaged in conversation with them, when they were putting this, this contract together,

(Coughing)

RK: I did not engage in a contract, th, they were explaining how their percentage thing was gonna work among their, among their people. I'm like Okay,

WI: Who were those people?

RK: Uh different investors th, that had come together. And, and were,

WI: Had it already been voted on at this point?

BL: No.

RK: This, this investors?

WI: Had the Board already voted to let them have the lease?

RK: Yes.

WI: You had already championed that for em?

RK: The Board, the Board had voted, the Board had voted to enter into the lease agreement with uh, with a partnership or with, whatever it was at the time. Okay. There was um, they went out and got some extra investors to, if I remember right, Lloyd and Dale were putting up the lease as part of their investment towards their equity portion of it and they were trying to get some extra investors to um, help put up the equity capital to get the hotel started and they had to, the way the lease agreement was written, was that they couldn't lease the property to anybody else. But the investors were gonna have to get a percentage done um, they, they needed to have some sort of security you know based

on that you know that the lease is only and

(Coughing)

RK: Millrose and (inaudible) whatever the corporation was that the original lease was under, they wouldn't have any,

WI: Hey Ralph,

RK: Equity in that. I know, I know it's getting late and you wanna do this. I'm trying to explain to you.

WI: How much were they going to give you for being their ambassador and getting this pushed through cause it met with resistance didn't it?

RK: Well (inaudible) the lease, when the lease first came up, when the lease first came up um, they had purchased the property or were in the process of purchasing the property from Wachovia Bank, I think. And they talked about wanting to tear the restaurant down and put another restaurant there. Um, I think they'd already purchased the other, the old Fleet Marine location.

WI: Hey Ralph, it met with resistance, didn't it?

RK: It met with resistance and then, and then the issue,

WI: How much resistance?

RK: There was quite a bit and then, and then,
(Coughing)

WI: And it took voting to do it?

RK: The Board voted, the Board voted to, the Board voted to um,

WI: How many times did the Board vote on it?

RK: I don't recall. (Inaudible) originally the Board, the Board denied their request until a study was done on how many hotels the port could support or should we even have a hotel out here at the port. Just because we (inaudible) that said two hotels in the port,

one across the way at their location was indeed a good spot for a hotel. Ok? So that...

WI: Brought it up on the agenda again?

RK: I think they asked, I think they asked to have it put back on the agenda again once that report came back that said it, it was a good idea to have hotels. So they came back, they already had the lease and what they asked for was a modification (inaudible.)

WI: What had to, in order to get back on the agenda, in order to get that lease

RK: (Coughing)

WI: they had to create a development plan?

RK: At that time they were asking for a modification to allow hotel use on their lease.

WI: And did they have to show the development plan? In other words this is what we're gonna to do?

RK: At that time no. They did not have to.

WI: Did they ultimately?

RK: Nobody, all, nobody they were gonna have to submit a plan for approval to the board, yes.

WI: Was that to get it back on the agenda?

RK: No. It was, it was to approve going forward on the project because there were different issues that still had nothing decided, such as height and density and other things.

WI: Was it ever an issue that you voted against?

RK: On the hotel? I don't believe so. I thought...

WI: There ever an issue that the board voted four to one?

RK: On some, on some issues yes, um, probably.

WI: You were the only one that voted for it?

RK: Voted against it or voted for?

WI: In other words you would have won?

RK: I would say yes.

WI: That seem a little odd to you? And let me follow that up with this. Was there anybody else on the commission that was gonna get a percentage of that hotel?

RK: I was not gonna get a percentage of the hotel.

WI: Did they offer you a percentage of the hotel?

RK: I...

WI: Was that a continuing conversation throughout this process?

RK: No it was not a continuing conversation throughout this process.

WI: So if one of them told us that it was a continuing conversation...

RK: (Talking over WI) I never had...

WI: (Talking over RK) They had, they had...

RK: (Coughing)

WI: To some degree made you aware of the fact that they would blow the whistle?

RK: No sir, they, they have...

WI: (Talking over RK) Would they be lying to me?

RK: Yes sir that they never said they were gonna blow the whistle on me on anything else if I didn't vote, I, I never had a conversation.

BL: Hey, hypothetically, Rhonda goes on (inaudible) and says to you, is it her or the Lloyds, who is it that makes this percentage offer to you about the, the hotel?

RK: It was Rhoda.

WI: Good job.

BL: And where are you when this happens?

RK: I don't know if it was a phone conversation or whether I was at her office or where I was.

BL: Ok, so either on the phone or in person, she says to you, what?

RK: She says, we're gonna take care of you for that, you know, she says we're gonna make

sure(Inaudible)

BL: (Talking over RK)

RK: We're gonna make sure you're included you know, in this, in this hotel joint.

BL: Ok

RK: (Talking over BL) And I heard it, I can't, I can't do that.

BL: Ok and then what does she say?

RK: She said, she said well, you know we really want to do something for you. And I said you know, it, it's, I want to see the hotel built brother, that's what I want to see.

BL: Ok. And what happened then?

RK: Um, I've not had a discussion with them about this for,,,

BL: I'm about to end this conversation, you circumvent conversations intentionally, that's what you're doing to me.

RK: I'm sorry.

BL: (Inaudible)

RK: I did not, I told her I could not take a percentage of the project, she said well maybe...

BL: I didn't mention anything about the project being percentage at this point, you just had a conversation about she said, I said, she said, I said, you haven't gotten to anything about percentages that's circumventing the ABC's.

RK: I understand..

BL: We're getting the C which is important...

RK: I understand.

BL: So you're saying she's saying no we want to take care of you, then what happens, let's start from that point, we'll get back to B and then we'll get to the C.

RK: Ok. And I said, and I said, I can't do that. I told her I said I wanted to make sure, I wanted to see the hotel get built.

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BL: Ok.

RK: Ok. That's what I told her, I wanted to see the hotel get built.

BL: So when did she mention, you're missing C being the percentage. When did she bring up the percentage, she's had this conversation...

RK: She brought it up, she had brought it, she had brought it up, I'm trying to remember, she may have brought it up a couple different times and it just, I let it flash over my head because there is nothing, I can't take anything.

BL: Ok. So you're saying that on a couple different occasions she's approached the subject from you getting a percentage for, for what?

RK: Well obviously she. I know they wanted my support for the hotel.

BL: Right.

RK: And I supported the hotel because I supported the idea of the hotel.

BL: Ok but why do you say obviously she wanted your support when...

RK: (Talking over BL) Well they (Inaudible) they were investing money in this at this point.

BL: So maybe, I'm, I'm stating the obvious thing but the bottom line is when you say obvious, obvious to one person may not be obvious to others so what did, what did she say that was indicative that she wanted your support?

RK: Well they were...

BL: I appreciate your support, here's the deal, because of that I'll give you 2 percent. Now you didn't take it but the same token, I want to find out from....

RK: (Talking over B) They, they

BL: where she's coming from.

RK: the issues, the issues on the hotel, if you don't mind let me, let me kind of.

BL: Ok.

RK: Kind of go through this thing a little bit if you don't mind, the different issues as a

member? When, when we voted to go ahead with the lease, then they came back with a lease, there were issues that came up about height and density. Ok, and what type of hotel they were gonna do. Ok. Um the board voted to stay consistent with they essentially agree with height and in Cocoa Beach but they didn't want something super tall either and they wanted to be consistent with the area which was...

BL: (Interrupted by BL) So let me ask you, interrupt you, and I apologize but when you're going through this whole process with these different issues that are coming up before the board that are purveying this, is there at any point during that, that process during any of those meetings or voting meetings or, or, committee meetings or whatever meetings that they were, where a collective vote was taken on this thing, weighing in any un, unofficial and collective, collective vote, did you ever go against any of these things or did you always side with the Millikens?

RK: On, speaking of, on the issues of agreeing to the lease or the density or how much property they had to go, I went with the board.

BL: Ok.

RK: Ok. It was a board, it was the board, (Inaudible) that said we need to stay consistent with what every...

BL: What did you vote against the board on?

RK: I voted against the board on issues of the hotel.

BL: Mmm Hmm.

RK: I don't know if I did vote against the board on, on, on issues.

BL: You told me that there were times where you wanted support.

RK: Unless it was, unless it was, if it was 1 to 4 it might have been an issue on lease extension or possibly why it would, in the, in the, in the modified lease or something like that that might not have agreed with. I did, I don't agree, I didn't agree with the language

of, that the lease, if, if, they don't feel that the lease was (Inaudible). Ok. I don't, I didn't agree that, they...

BL: Would it, would it be a fair assessment to say that there was nothing that came up that you would vote against that would be detrimental, if, if there's anything that was detrimental towards the Millikens or this hotel project that came up to be voted, to, to take something detrimental towards them or this project, you never would vote for that? That, that a fair assessment, or you never did vote for that?

RK: I don't recall every vote I took, but I would say that if it was a legitimate, going detrimental, I would, I would have voted, ah, voted against them on that.

BL: Ok, and why would that have been?

RK: Ah it could have been, it it could have been the right thing to do. Could have been...

BL: But realistically why?

RK: That I voted against it?

BL: Yeah, why would you, why would you not vote against anything that would be detrimental towards the hotel or the Millikens pretty much?

RK: Ah, wait a minute I'm confused at what you're asking.

WI: In other words what he's asking you Ralph is would you have ever voted against the Millikens on anything?

RK: Yes, I have.

WI: On the hotel?

RK: On the hotel I don't recall but I have voted against the Millikens (Inaudible)

BL: What (Inaudible) what?

RK: This building complaint.

BL: What about it?

RK: They owned um, they owned a ah, ah, ah, piece of this building when it was purchased

um by (Inaudible)

BL: Ok.

RK: (Inaudible) a group came together bought it and Millikens were part of it.

BL: Ok.

RK: On the port, on the port purchase stuff about lying and I voted against it.

WI: While all of this was going on, the, the development of the hotel, the promise of percentages to you even though you allege you didn't want it, when all that was going on and you were voting in these meetings different sub committee meetings and everything else?

RK: We don't have (Inaudible)

WI: Whatever they were, were you talking to the (Inaudible)?

RK: About?

WI: About what the problem was, how to get around it?

RK: No sir.

WI: Cause I'm, I'm seeing a pattern here is why I asked.

RK: No sir.

WI: Because now we're back to, (Inaudible) and you tell Gene Sorrows and Lloyd Millicent how to get around voting for Sun Cruz.

RK: No sir, no sir.

WI: So you're telling me, that you didn't have any conversations with the Millikens during that time period that led to them (Inaudible) you were their ambassador?

RK: Wh, get (Inaudible talking over each other)

WI: Let me put this into perspective for you alright and now we're gonna be real. Look at me, do I look like I'm missing any meals, do I?

RK: No sir.

WI: It's freaking getting supper time for me. Put the cards on the table. I'm through. Tired of playing.

RK: Wayne, Wayne, when the Millicent issue came up on the hotel, ok, on voting for the height and density, I went with the board (Inaudible) on what, what happened. On language in the lease as presented by our attorney, I voted for it. Ok, um...

WI: How much you were promised Ralph? How much were you promised, it's a question that you can answer.

RK: I, Wayne...

WI: Not a hypothetical

RK: Wayne

WI: It's not a how much did you get.

RK: She had...

WI: How much were you promised?

RK: She, over the years I did some things, she has mentioned numbers of 10 of 20 thousand dollars or things like that. On, on different things. We'll pay you this, We'll pay you that.

BL: Hey, give me a running total.

(Inaudible, all talking over each other)

RK: No, no, no, no

WI: She has mentioned we'll give you 10 thousand dollars for this, 20 thousand dollars for that.

RK: I, no.

WI: Is that in return for your job on the board?

RK: No it's not.

WI: What was it for?

RK: Well obviously it was but I mean that was her intentions for paying for supporting their

projects so they could, they get, they could get this hotel. Ok.

WI: So their intent was to pound you so you would support their projects so they could get the hotel and be (Inaudible)?

RK: This is the, their

WI: (Inaudible)

RK: Her conversation was trying to give me something what happened after they got there was, but I never intended to take any money from them at all.

WI: Well I have just one last question. Brad if you want to go on you can. Why would you as an elected official, continue to involve yourself with people who are trying to bribe you? You answer that question for me. Why would you as an elected official Ralph, continue to take free meals from people, continue four years later after the lease to accept the thirty thousand dollar wedding for free and even as recent as two weeks ago, engage yourself in a partnership as you want to call it, conspiracy, as I'm gonna call it, to circumvent the port and let...

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: unless you were accepting it?

RK: I would not accept a bribe, I really thought that Gene Sorrows had the money, or didn't think he had the money, I didn't know he had the money, I thought he was coming forward with a plan to do something. I really did. And as far as the Millicent...

WI: Is there any other restaurant that you eat at for free? In this entire county?

RK: There is other, there are, there were (Inaudible) sometimes like no. There were res, there were times when...

WI: Is there any other restaurant in this county that you eat at for free like you do at the Millikens? And you drink for free? Is there any other places in this county that you could of gone and had your thirty thousand dollar wedding for free?

RK: No.

WI: Does that seem odd to you Ralph?

RK: In regard to some of the uh, in regard to some of the meals and drinks and things. There were times when, there were,

WI: When the Millikens tell people that they own you.

RK: That's not a correct statement.

WI: (Inaudible) Ralph,

RK: No I don't. I think I put myself in a bad situation.

WI: I think you have too.

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: So they have rented you from time to time? True or not true?

WI: It's your chance now Ralph.

BL: True.

WI: Your chance to be the right ambassador. What is it that they have done for you? This is your chance to right your wrong.

RK: I, I, I, I've told you. They have not, they did not given me, they have not given me,

WI: In absolute one hundred percent,

RK: (Inaudible)

WI: Honesty. And you talked about your friendship with your wife, knowing that that woman probably depends on you greatly. And I see how much you love her Ralph (inaudible) putting your honesty on the record right here. How much money have you accepted from the Milliken's in return for your votes on this Board? Put your character on the line,

RK: Other than what I've talked to you about, nothing. Other than, other than, eh, did they buy me stuff, did they, did they pay for my dinners? Sometimes they did. Buy me drinks at the restaurant sometimes, yeah but it wasn't all, always, (inaudible)

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WI: Did they pay for your wedding? Did they give you the site work, so they could pay you?

RK: No sir. I can show you, I can show you the invoices that, that we did for them and it was,

WI: But it was paid in cash,

(Throat clearing)

WI: You just told me that. Why would you create an invoice for something paid in cash?

RK: Yeah, yes. It was (inaudible)

BL: Which, which one are we referring to now?

WI: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

RK: (Inaudible - talking over each other)

WI: That they paid in cash for,

BL: The dock or the site work out here, surveying and sight work.

RK: (Inaudible)

BL: When was this supposedly happen?

RK: About ten years ago, nine years ago.

BL: Did you actually do anything or is that (inaudible)

RK: No I did, no I did, I did. I did, I did, I did.

BL: Who did you do this with?

RK: I, I was, I was, uh working just working at Rhoda's,

BL: Who did you do the site work with?

RK: Oh it wasn't site work,

BL: Oh it wasn't?

RK: It wasn't construction work, it was, it was, it was review their, it was reviewing some of their, their, their survey and separating out their different properties cause they had different tenants and they were uh, uh, dividing up the cash stuff because of the property tax bills and things like that. Um,

BL: (Inaudible) wasn't this for a survey person or an accountant?

RK: Well this was, the surveys are there.

BL: Right.

RK: And, and all I did was just take the square footage areas of the different properties that they had leased out and say okay this much is, this much is Lloyd's restaurant, this much is, is parking lot, this much is what's now Red Head's, then it was (inaudible) and I think they had it leased out to somebody else that had a bigger (inaudible) and the fish house, the old fish house, nobody was in so I just took the property square footage wise,

BL: Alright.

RK: And, an, an and, and separated it out for em and looked at the leases to see how, what exactly square footage wise they, you know, what, what was part of the deal you know and what they were renting and broke that out and presented it to them.

BL: They couldn't have done that on their own?

RK: Um (inaudible)

BL: I mean I'm not that,

RK: I, I, (inaudible) but,

BL: Bright but seems like I could,

RK: I, she's,

BL: Ten, ten thousand square feet divided by three tenants, Ralph,

RK: I, I, I understand.

BL: So they paid you five thousand cash for that?

RK: I, I, was out, I was out work at the, I had very little um, there was that and I, I reviewed some other lease stuff for them and uh, you know.

WI: Do you (inaudible)

RK: No sir.

WI: And do they owe you any money?

RK: No sir. I, (inaudible) at the time,

WI: (Inaudible) were you offered, offered, not accepted, were you offered money by the Milliken's or Gene Sorrows if you could get the Sun Cruise issue back on the agenda?

RK: No sir. No sir I was not.

BL: I'm not sure I believe you on that one there Ralph.

RK: Do what?

BL: I said I'm not sure I believe you on that one. You're showing strong signs of deception on that one Bud.

RK: No sir. I, I'm I'm no sir I was not.

WI: Ralph you were offered money for the hotel, okay you voted no on that. You don't have to answer it okay, that wasn't a question it was a statement.

RK: Right.

WI: It's a statement of facts. You were offered money, a percentage of that hotel and you know the figure, you know how much money you would stand to make on that.

RK: I, I, no, I, I really, I really don't,

WI: So how much money (inaudible - talking over each other)

BL: Two percent of an unknown (inaudible)

RK: Well, well,

BL: Property can't be qualified, so why do you say I don't know what it was?

RK: I, I, I, I really don't know.

BL: Did they offer you ten grand cash, twenty grand cash? It doesn't matter you didn't take it Ralph, that's the point. That's what, you're beating a dead horse over something that's not even relevant but the point is if you told me they offered you fifty thousand dollars, it doesn't make any difference because you didn't take it. So tell me how much they

freakin' offered.

RK: I, I really, I, I, I am being honest with you. I really do not recall a dollar amount. I, I,

BL: Do you recall a percent?

RK: I had never (inaudible)

WI: But you recall the fact that she was gonna take it out of her part?

RK: Yes.

WI: Now how is she gonna give it to you?

RK: I don't know.

WI: It never got that far?

RK: It never got that far.

WI: Why not?

RK: Because it never, it, it, it never got that far because I wasn't (inaudible)

WI: You wanna know why it never got that far Ralph? I can drive you over there and show you.

RK: There's no hotel.

WI: There's no hotel.

RK: But I was never, I would never, at least I told ya,

WI: How many times have you voted against the Board on that hotel? Not too long ago, was it Ralph?

RK: Voted against the Board? I abstained from the last vote on the hotel.

WI: Okay.

RK: I abstained on the last vote on the hotel.

WI: And were you asked to do that?

RK: I was, uh I was,

WI: Is that after you and Matheny?

RK: Yeah.

WI: Okay.

BL: Ralph, you've dug yourself a hole here pal.

RK: How did I dig myself a hole?

WI: Have, have you been listening to the conversation?

RK: I, I understand. I do not Wayne I honest to God,

WI: Ralph, correct me if I'm wrong. Did you not just sit here and say, that you voted on the Board based upon compensation for things?

RK: No sir.

WI: The Milliken's didn't compensate you ten and twenty thousand dollars that you said

RK: No sir.

BL: You said, you said it earlier that they paid,

RK: No.

BL: They offered you tens of thousands of dollars,

RK: They offered, (inaudible)

BL: Repeatedly.

RK: They no, no, no, but I, but no they didn't. They, they, (inaudible)

WI: Your, your story is that you didn't accept it?

RK: I didn't accept any of it.

WI: Well how do I know that Ralph because you took the other in cash to hide it.

RK: I didn't, I didn't, I didn't, at the time I did that otherwork for Rhoda, I was,

WI: Desperate?

RK: I wasn't gonna say desperate. I was not very busy at work. I just started my business. I did not have a lot going on. She said can you help me with a couple of things here and I said sure. Okay. And so I helped her with some stuff and you know they paid me later